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THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



# THE INDEPENDENT

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(1R50p) 45p

## DRUGS IN SCHOOL

A MOTHER'S TALE: IN THE EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

## TOO CLEVER BY HALF: THE TROUBLE WITH LE SAUX

RICHARD WILLIAMS  
REVIEW FRONT

# Jail 'torture': 43 officers accused

**POLICE FILES** on 43 prison officers accused of brutality and torture have been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service after the biggest criminal investigation at a British prison.

The allegations include claims that inmates at Wormwood Scrubs in west London were beaten, burnt with cigarettes, forced to eat paper and subjected to obscene abuse about members of their families.

Claims of pre-planned beatings, racism and other assaults have been made by around 80 prisoners and former inmates.

By IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Most of the original complaints were by black prisoners. One said he was forced to eat a "Black is Beautiful" poster that was taken from his wall. Many white prisoners have also now come forward claiming they were brutally treated.

A Metropolitan Police investigation team has passed 43 separate files to the CPS, each detailing evidence against an individual prison officer. The investigation, which has so far

considered the allegations of 46 victims, is ongoing.

As well as possible charges of actual or grievous bodily harm, crown prosecutors can consider charges of torture, which exist under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, in respect of premeditated acts of violence by those in official positions.

The CPS is expected to announce its decisions within two weeks.

The Prison Service has suspended 15 officers on full pay, including a junior governor. The remaining 28 are continuing to work or have left the service.

Last night, the Prison Officers' Association claimed that some of the allegations, which cover the last six years, were the result of "bandwagon jumping", following initial allegations of brutality by five prisoners over a year ago.

Tom Robson, a member of the POA's national executive committee, said: "We are not above the law and we do need to be questioned about our actions but it is turning into an open season on prison officers."



Wormwood Scrubs

The investigation into the allegations of brutality at Wormwood Scrubs has grown and grown. The Prison Service initially commissioned its own internal inquiry, headed by Peter Atherton. His findings were passed to the police, who had already started an investigation.

A Metropolitan Police major inquiry team probed allegations relating to the period January 1997 to May 1998, which covered most of the complaints.

A spokesman said last night: "Although the bulk of this investigation has been completed, inquiries will continue in some aspects."

A separate police team, based at Hammersmith, west London, was set up to investi-

gate further claims relating to alleged incidents from the last nine months and earlier complaints dating back to November 1992. These may result in files on more prison officers being sent to the CPS.

Several of the prisoners who have made allegations claim to have since been subjected to intimidation designed to get them to withdraw their complaints.

The Prison Service apologised to one prisoner - who alleges he was severely beaten in the segregation unit at Worm-

wood Scrubs - after staff at his new prison, Long Lartin in Worcestershire, took papers from his cell which detailed his allegations.

The Prison Service described it as "an unfortunate error on the part of the searching officers".

Last December, a prisoner who was facing charges of escaping from a prison bus in 1996, told Woolwich Crown Court in London that he had escaped in order to avoid a beating on arrival at Wormwood Scrubs.

Decaying prison, page 4



## President says we failed to protect the killed tourists

**THE PRESIDENT** of Uganda yesterday promised to hunt down the Hutu rebels who murdered four Britons and four other Western tourists. He also admitted that his government had not done enough to protect the victims.

At a press conference in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, Yoweri Museveni apologised for the deaths and said his men were tracking the killers. "If we catch them we shall kill them," he said.

"The authorities should have had the foresight to take precautions in Bwindi, which is close to the Congo border," the President admitted.

"We therefore regret this mistake. On the one hand it is the criminality of the rebels, but on the other hand there was also laxity on our own people in respect to guarding these wonderful visitors of ours."

His comments came as offi-

By LUCY HANNAN  
in Kampala,  
ANDREW BUNCOMBE  
AND KIM SENGUPTA

cials were last night preparing to fly home the bodies of the four Britons who were murdered by Hutu rebels in Bwindi National Park in the early hours of Monday.

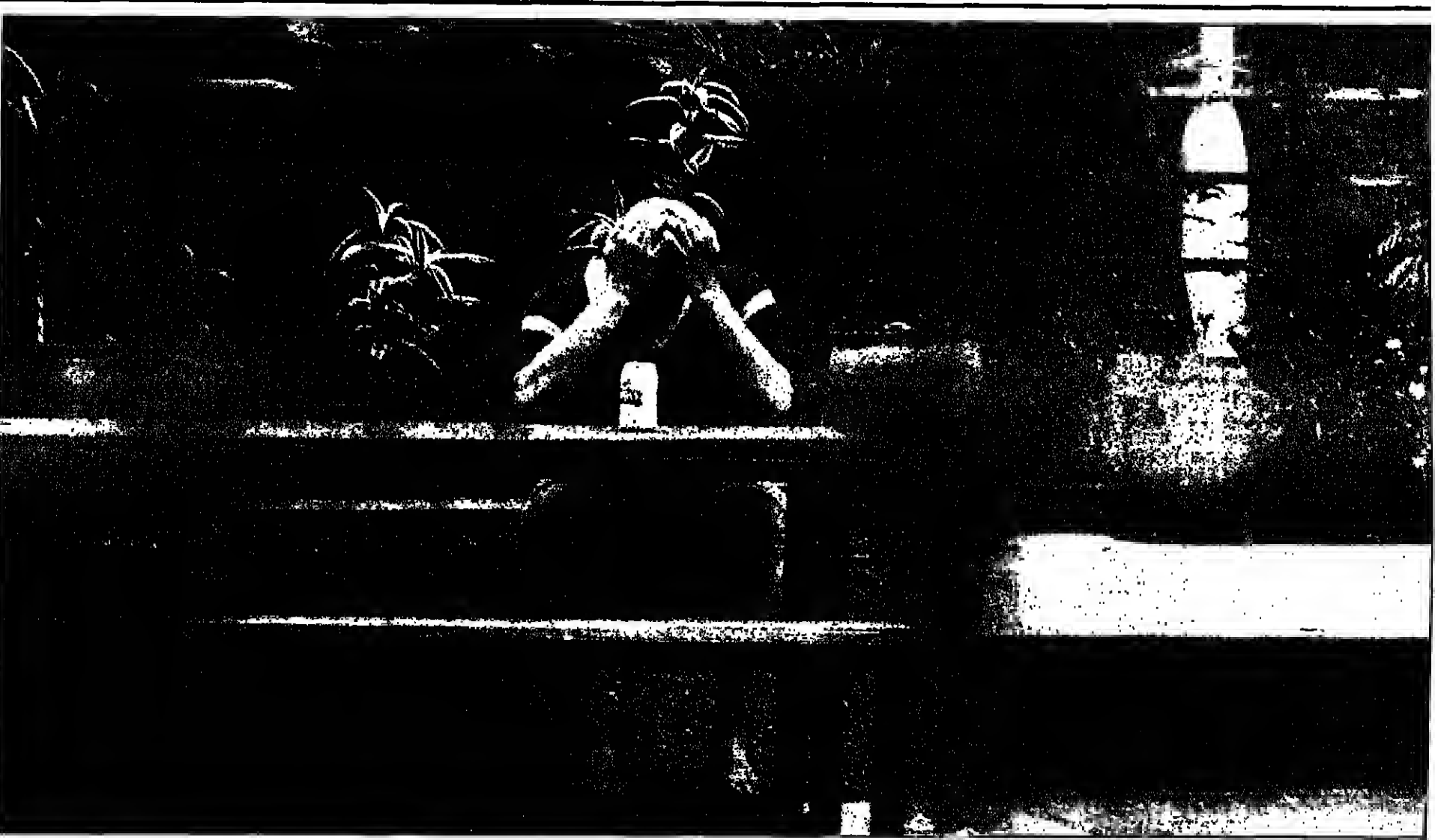
The Foreign Office yesterday confirmed the identities of the Britons killed as Martin Friend, from Kent, Mark Lindgren, 23, from Hertfordshire, Steven Roberts, 27, from Edinburgh, and Joanne Cotton, from Essex.

Gary Tappenden and Fiona Morley, both from Kent, and Mark Avis, 27, who lived in New Zealand, were among the survivors. They were still in Kampala.

The two dead Americans were named as Rob Haubner, 48, and his wife, Susan Miller, 42. The New Zealand victims were identified as Rhonda Avis, 27, of Auckland, and Michelle Strathern, 26, of Timaru. Mrs Avis was reportedly travelling with her husband Mark, who has joint British and New Zealand nationality and survived the attack.

The family of Mr Tappenden revealed their son had been with Mr Friend when the gunmen attacked.

The bodies will be flown



An Australian survivor of the gorilla-park attack recovering at the British High Commission in Kampala; left, a mortuary worker with the body of a tourist killed at Bwindi AP

## Blunkett to seize control of 'failing' Hackney schools

**THE GOVERNMENT** is to seize control of one of Britain's worst education authorities after inspectors found it was still failing pupils.

Ministers are set to take the unprecedented step of staging a direct takeover of Hackney council's education department and handing its functions to a team of external consultants.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, is likely to invite private firms and neighbouring councils to bid for the management of the troubled north-east London authority.

Teaching unions will object to what they see as the UK's first "privatisation" of state education, but Whitehall sources say the radical initiative will prove the Government's policy

By PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent



of "zero tolerance" of failure in schools.

The move will follow the publication later this month of what is understood to be a highly critical report by inspectors from the Office for

Standards in Education into the local education authority's running of its 73 schools.

Hackney claims its schools have improved since Ofsted was first sent in last year and a government "help squad" arrived. But the latest inspection shows that the authority is still way below standard.

Ministers believe the council's progress has been far too slow and are determined to take action to "rescue" the borough's 73,000 pupils.

They are also furious that Hackney has persisted with its unusual executive management structure which means it is the only council in the country whose education director is not among the most senior officers.

Chris Woodhead, Ofsted's

chief inspector, will receive the latest report on 16 March and Mr Blunkett is likely to announce plans for a takeover the same day or soon after. He will reveal on 1 April the list of approved contractors.

Hackney's GCSE results are among the worst in the UK, with just 26.5 per cent of its pupils achieving five or more A to C grades.

The council, which has been dogged by political infighting and has no party in control, points to new figures showing it has the most improved key stage two test results for 11-year-olds, and the fact that one of its schools is now a "beacon school". "We've done everything that was asked of us," a council source said.

## Physicists tied up in knots

**IT TOOK** more than a century for the guardians of male sartorial elegance to arrive at four distinct ways of tying a knot in a neck-tie. It took two Cambridge physicists a couple of months to come up with six more.

Not since the 1930s when the Duke of Windsor introduced the knot named after him has Savile Row been so spoilt for choice in the neck-tie department.

A scientific approach to the problems of wrapping a man's most useless item of clothing around his neck has found that there are 85 ways of tying a knot in it - but only 10 are any good.

The six new knots are not yet named and the inventors, Thomas Fink and Yong Mao of the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, are unsure if they

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

can claim patent rights. They employed the analytical techniques they had developed as theoretical physicists to deconstruct the rules of tie-making into a set of mathematical formulas, described in the journal *Nature*.

The new knots range in simplicity from a knot made of four movements to a 10-move nightmare. Dr Fink, 27, a New Yorker, was yesterday wearing one of his own creations, a "seven over two" - about half as wide as the full Windsor knot. "Tying a knot is like a random walk with your hands. You're making a sequence of movements from one region to another," he said.

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### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Australia ... 6.50 AM  
Austria ... 6.00 AM  
Belgium ... 9.00 AM  
Canada ... 3.30 PM  
Czech Republic ... 11.00 AM  
Denmark ... 12.00 PM  
France ... 10.00 PM  
Germany ... 4.50 PM  
Greece ... 7.00 PM  
Hungary ... 2.00 PM  
Ireland ... 12.00 PM  
Italy ... 1.00 PM  
Japan ... 6.00 PM  
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USA ... 1.00 PM

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TODAY'S TELEVISION  
BACK PAGE

from March 8th

# I'M moving

From next Monday you'll find Trevor McDonald at 6.30, not 11pm. Which means there's now room for uninterrupted films, dramas and edgier shows.

All followed by a later news as well at 11pm, with Dermot Murnaghan.

tv gets better







15:50

# Law of the jungle takes over as the rebels are hunted down and killed

BY KIM SENGUPTA  
AND LUCY HANNAN  
in Kampala

THEY WERE sifting through the remains of the camps in the Bwindi National Park yesterday amid the scattered belongings of tourists, burnt-out Land Rovers and the shot-up guard posts.

Up in the hills, Ugandan and Rwandan troops were carrying out their search-and-destroy operations against the Hutu rebels who killed the eight Western holidaymakers, while an FBI team flew into Kampala to begin their investigation. Scotland Yard officers could join them in the next few days. The Foreign Office in London said a decision will be made today.

Yesterday, in reaction to the rape, mutilation and murder of the tourists and the shock and outrage, President Yoweri Museveni said those responsible would be captured and killed. Some have already died, tracked across the border to the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they had set up camp and were shot as they tried to scatter.

Lieutenant Charles Kakaire, leading one of the patrols, said: "They are in the Congo; we are going after them - we will get them."

In Kampala, Ugandan and US investigators began interviewing survivors. Some had witnessed horrific deaths, including the burning alive of a ranger in the camp. Many were said to be more traumatised than after their return to Kampala as the horror of what happened began to sink in.

Forensic experts are expected to go to the Bwindi park today. The bodies of the dead, four men and four



The Bwindi camp at the border of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, devastated in the attack by Rwandan Hutus where eight Western tourists died. AP

women, were identified yesterday by a tour guide from Acacia Expeditions. Examinations revealing how they died had been done, although details were not immediately released. As the victims' families mourned, there was relief among relatives of those who survived. Among them was the family of Gary Tappenden, whose girlfriend, Karen Collier,

said: "I am going to give him a big kiss and a cuddle and not let him get away again."

The British government has asked for clarification of reports that the Ugandan tourist board received a letter two weeks ago in which Hutu rebels threatened to kill British and US tourists. Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd said: "That's the question we have asked

President Museveni to look into. If there were some truth in that it would be a matter of enormous importance." The Ugandan tourist board denied the claims.

The military adviser attached to the British High Commission made a two-hour journey to the Bwindi park and discovered a scene of terrible violence.

The Ugandan community warden, John Wagaba, was tied up and burned alive and some of his colleagues had been disabled by gunfire and then hacked to death. Damage to property had been selective. All the tourist vehicles had been set on fire, but the Ugandan ones had been spared.

The killings may have been frenzied but the attack preceding them was well-planned and executed in a difficult terrain of steep valleys and dense jungle. The Hutu militiamen crossed the border in the evening and gathered on the high ground around the Bwindi. In a masking manoeuvre, one group peeled off to attack the village of Butogota to draw away units of the Ugandan army in the area while others

moved to the three safari camps.

They converged on the camps, set within a few hundred yards of each other, just before 7am and attacked the guard posts, manned by half-asleep rangers, with Kalashnikovs and grenades. While one group killed the guards, the others looted the cabins and tents and raced each other to

## THE SURVIVORS

### 'I cried, thinking I'm finished'

TWO OF the Western tourists who managed to escape the butchery inflicted on their companions have spoken of their miraculous survival.

Danja Walters, 26, from Zurich, said she had actually begged the kidnappers to let her stay with the British and American tourists rather than the French-speakers in the group. It was the English speakers on whom the kidnappers were to inflict their horrors.

She said she and a friend were dragged from under a table where they had hidden and were forced to assemble with the others. "We were forced to walk barefoot. I was the second person in line; in front of me was a woman who was a tour guide," she said.

"I suddenly heard the rebels speaking French. One of them wanted to take my friend's glasses and I pleaded, in French, 'Oh please give those back, she can't see very well'."

BY LUCY HANNAN  
in Kampala  
AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE

voice, 'Shut up, keep moving, keep silent'. I thought, that's it. We walked towards the forest. "We were standing in a row and they said: 'Nationality, nationality'. There were British, Australian, American, French - we were mixed. I was the only Swiss person and I was standing in the back row."

The rebels wanted to place Ms Walters with the French group because she had been speaking French. "I said 'No, I want to be with my friends, not with the French'."

"By that time, I thought I was going to be killed. I thought I'd rather die with my friends than with strangers."



Alive: Linda Adams, an American; and Gary Tappenden



Alive: Linda Adams, an American; and Gary Tappenden

who were later killed - fell behind. "I thought they were OK. At this stage, I didn't realise they were separating us. I didn't realise what had happened. I didn't think people could kill people."

Just a few minutes before the rebels abandoned the group, she felt someone grab at her hair.

"I started to cry, thinking 'I'm finished, I'm finished with my life. I have one foot in the sky'."

Gary Tappenden, aged 28, from Bromley, Kent, had also been dragged from his tent by rebels who then stole his belongings and forced him barefoot into the forest.

He was aware that he had become separated from his travelling companion, Martin Friend. He was never to see his friend again.

Yesterday, Mr Tappenden's parents said their son had telephoned them as soon as he had returned to Kampala.

His mother, Pearl Tappenden, said: "It was just awful, absolutely horrible. We were pacing up and down. I just didn't know what to do with myself. The hours of waiting were absolute agony."

"He came on the telephone and asked us if we had heard what had been going on. I was very emotional and shocked, especially after thinking what he had been through."

"Gary told us he had feared for his life and said he really thought he was going to die. Gary is still very tearful and shaken up. He has not really told us about anything he has been through."

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

ON SUNDAY night, just hours before he was hacked to death, Mark Lindgren rang his parents and told his father, John, how he was looking forward to a game of golf on his return.

His mother was in the kitchen of their home in St Albans, Hertfordshire, too busy to speak. She is now distraught she had not taken that last opportunity to speak to her son.

Kerry Pollard, their constituency MP said: "The family are absolutely devastated, hardly able to come to terms with the loss of their only son. They are trying to hold themselves together and just waiting for news on when the body can come back."

As officials last night prepared to repatriate the body of Mr Lindgren, 23, tributes were paid to the other Britons killed.



Steven Roberts had always wanted to see the world

He left the electrical store he had helped set up in order to fulfil his ambitions.

His former boss, John Sadd, executive director at Miller Brothers in Edinburgh, said Mr Roberts had first travelled to Australia to visit his parents and then moved on.

He also spoke about going on safari - "I know that was something he wanted to do," he

said. "He was very likeable, very enthusiastic and had a wide circle of friends and we are all very saddened by what has happened."

A family friend, Mark Williams, 27, the fiancé of Mr Roberts' sister, Leanne, said: "Steven was a fun-loving guy who was there on an adventure holiday. He knew the risks involved."

Martin Friend, 24, had been in Africa for two weeks and was travelling with Gary Tappenden. Both had wanted to see the rare mountain gorillas before travelling to South Africa.

Yesterday Mr Friend's parents, Pauline and Ronald, were too upset to talk about what had happened to their son. At the family home in Orpington, Kent, two police officers blocked the gate.

One said: "The father is very religious and just wants to be left alone. He wants to grieve with friends of the family. He is very upset and does not want to discuss anything yet."

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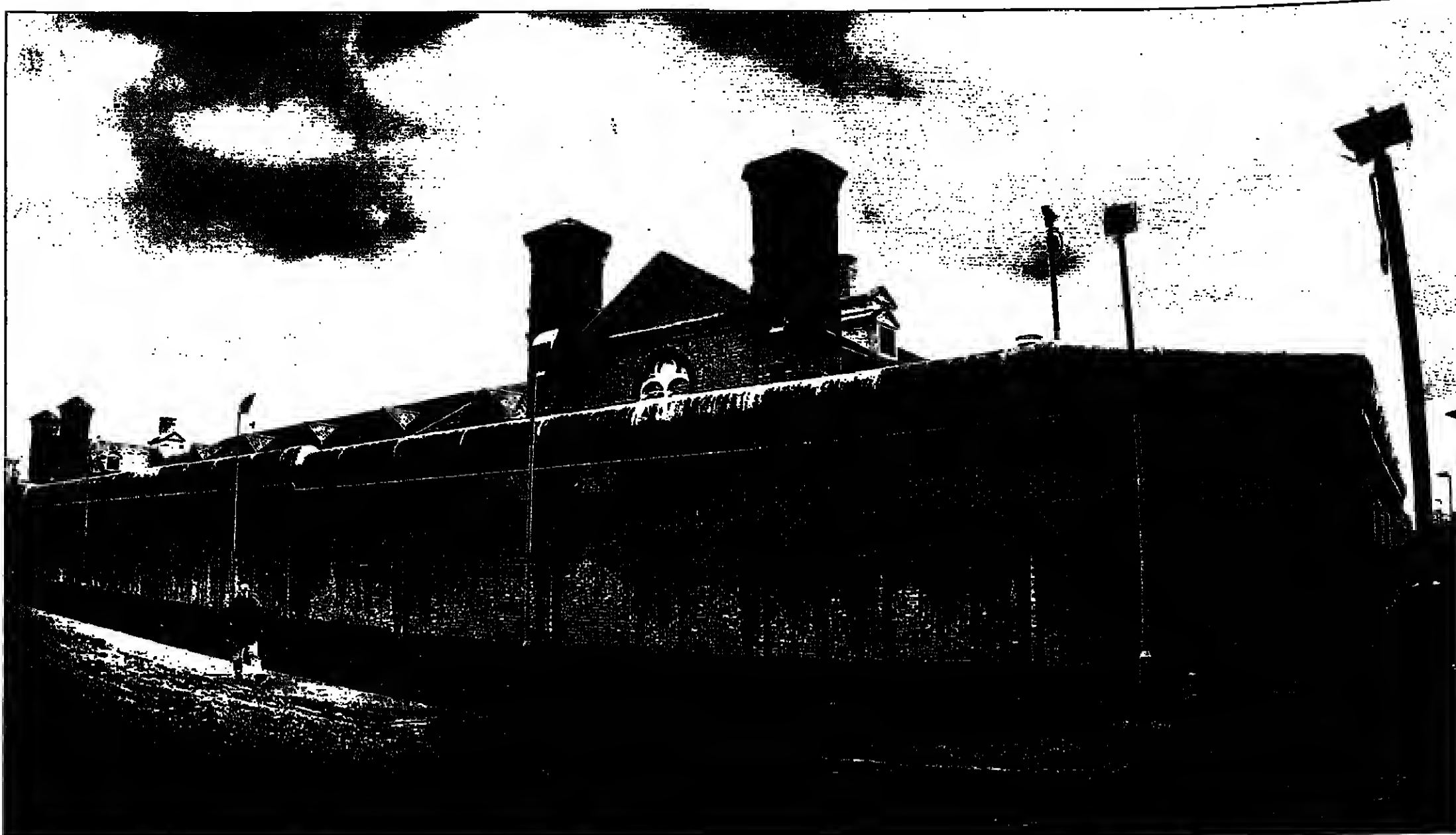
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**Wormwood Scrubs: Inmates allege brutality and racism in a regime which horrified the chief inspector of prisons**



The physically imposing façade of Wormwood Scrubs prison hides 'out-of-date attitudes which have no place in the modern world,' according to Sir David Ramsbotham

Peter Macdiarmid

## Flagship jail 'dead in the water'

WHEN PEOPLE think of prisons they tend to think of the gatehouse at Wormwood Scrubs. Architecturally stunning and physically imposing, it is the defining image of the Prison Service.

But this proud façade hides a decaying jail whose failure to incorporate modern working methods has left it out of step with other prisons in England and Wales.

In his latest report on the jail, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramsbotham, said: "Wormwood Scrubs is often

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

referred to as the 'flagship' of the Prison Service. It could be said the ship is now dead in the water and has been overtaken by other ships in the line."

Sir David, who said he was "surprised and horrified" by what he discovered, went on: "The out-of-date attitudes that we found have no place in the modern world."

It was in such an atmosphere, prisoners allege, that they were subjected to

systematic beatings, racism, hounding with cigarettes and having photographs of loved ones ripped up during a six-year period of intimidation by staff.

During his inspection, Sir David heard allegations of the "illegal use of force". In his report of March 1997, he said: "We found nothing to support this during the inspection but we are left with the question why such a strong rumour should be passed around."

More detailed allegations of brutality at the Scrubs, in west

London, were made to the Prison Reform Trust and London solicitors Hickman and Rose, who forwarded them to Sir David.

The outcome was a Prison Service inquiry which has given way to the largest criminal investigation ever seen at a jail in this country.

One prisoner alleges he was told: "This is not Highpoint [prison], we'll beat you up down here, because we don't care."

He said officers were "always very careful not to leave marks" and beat him in the

back, the sides or the back of the head. Many of the allegations detail attacks said to have been carried out in the prison's segregation unit, known as "the block". As the investigation has grown, nearly 80 prisoners and former inmates have come forward to make allegations.

Another inmate claimed: "One of the officers stamped on my head and I blacked out... When the officers who had taken me to the block saw that blood was coming out of my right ear they then took me to the hospital."

With nearly 1,400 inmates, Wormwood Scrubs is one of the largest prisons in Europe. It was the scene of rioting in 1979, which led to a long period of strained relations between prisoners and staff.

The Prison Officers' Association has been fully co-operative with the police inquiry, although the allegations have been received with outrage by officers at Wormwood Scrubs.

Last April, when the criminal investigation began at the

jail, more than 100 officers failed to turn up for work after reporting in sick.

Richard Tilt, the director-general of the Prison Service, ordered in 80 governor grade and other managerial staff to help run the jail and said: "We must assume that this is a protest action."

Since the allegations surfaced, several of the complaining prisoners say they have been subjected to further intimidation designed to persuade them not to co-operate with the inquiry.

**'I was naked and in agony'**

BY IAN BURRELL

ANDRZ JAKUBCZYK alleged he was beaten, stripped and left in agony with internal injuries after an attack by prison officers at Wormwood Scrubs.

He said he was pinned to the ground by officers who twisted his legs behind his back and beat him.

After the alleged assault Mr Jakubczyk claimed he was stripped naked and thrown into a strip cell to a body-belt. He says officers left him unattended for two hours, despite his internal and external injuries.

The alleged attack is said to have taken place in the prison's notorious segregation unit in March 1993.

Last May, Mr Jakubczyk, 46, from Dudley, West Midlands, accepted an out-of-court settlement of £7,000 from the Prison Service, shortly before his case was due to be heard at Southend County Court.

Daniel Machover, of solicitors Hickman and Rose in London, believes the case is similar to many others he has been asked to handle, and says it should form part of the Metropolitan Police investigation into alleged brutality at the prison.

Many of the prisoners who claim to have been victimised at the London jail are black.

One, Mr N, claims he was forced to take down a poster of Martin Luther King, which he had pinned to his cell wall.

He said: "I noticed that officers usually beat up black inmates and they beat me up when I was alone or with a black inmate."

Mr N alleged he was assaulted several times every day he was in the prison's segregation unit. One officer allegedly said to him: "We'll hang you and make it look like an accident or make it look as if you done it yourself."

He also said senior staff showed him no sympathy. "All in all, over a year I complained to about five different governors both in person and in writing. I never received a response," he said.

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## Christians learn to recruit children

A DIPLOMA to teach people how to evangelise children, thought to be the first in Europe, is to be launched today.

One- and two-year courses, which will be validated by Sheffield University, will equip adults to become children's missionaries. They will go out into schools, children's clubs, youth groups and mother-and-toddler groups to spread the Christian message.

Places on the courses, organised by the Scripture Union and the Methodist Cliff College, will be open to "all those who are committed to children and the gospel... the main criteria are the conviction to reach children for Christ and disciple them in their faith".

Humanists said yesterday that it was wrong to evangelise children who should be left to make up their own minds about religion.

But Gethin Russell-Jones, public relations manager for the Scripture Union, said: "We would say to those who object to the idea of evangelising chil-

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

dren that every child has a right to hear about the Christian faith, however young they are. It is right and proper that children should be able to make a choice about whether they believe or don't believe."

"The course will look at the legal implications of working with children, psychology, how to safeguard them from abuse and how to prevent them being screwed up."

Mr Russell-Jones said that people who went on the course, which starts in September, would be trained to deal with children as young as five. "For the first time we are providing an academic basis for the work of our children's evangelists."

People of all ages will be welcome but most are expected to be in their mid-20s.

The Scripture Union said yesterday that it might eventually attract up to 50 people a year. The 130-year-old Christian charity already has more than

20 children's evangelists at work throughout the country. Students will be on placements with them. They will also receive instruction in theology (the place of children in God's kingdom), how to develop children's spiritual awareness, how to communicate with children and how to spread the gospel to them.

Robert Ashby, director of the British Humanist Association, said: "We are absolutely opposed to this on human rights grounds. Children should be left to choose rather than having religion promoted to them, particularly the Christian religion in a multi-faith society."

"The irony is that if we set up a course for adults to show children that God doesn't exist we should be accused of blasphemy."

Fees will be £4,995, including cost of placements and board for the one-year, full-time course, and £2,650 for the part-time course. Cliff College, which is run by the Methodist Church, runs a BA in Biblical and Evangelistic Ministry.

## Air rage must be logged

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

BRITISH AIRLINES have been told to report every incident involving disruptive or dangerous passengers as part of government moves to eliminate "air rage".

From next month airlines must give details of incidents to the Civil Aviation Authority. This will include information on whether alcohol was a factor, and if a smoking ban was an issue. A spokesman said it would take about six months before the CAA would be able to offer an analysis of the causes of air rage.

Captain Mike Vivian, CAA head of flight operations, said: "We need to be able to study the data to help provide a long-term solution."

Airlines in Britain have reported a 400 per cent increase in attacks over the past three years. In January, the pilot of a Boeing 787 heading for the Caribbean diverted to the US after a fight broke out; 12 people were taken off the aircraft.

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## Mixed wards to be phased out in 3 years

MIXED-SEX wards will be eliminated from the NHS within three years, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, pledged yesterday. Announcing an extra £40m next year to provide separate facilities for men and women, he said 95 per cent of health authorities would have no mixed-sex accommodation by 2002.

"When this Government was elected I gave a pledge that, as part of our concern to ensure quality, we would work towards the elimination of mixed-sex accommodation, and that is exactly what I am doing."

The money is part of the £1.1bn for NHS capital projects announced in November, which was divided among health authorities yesterday. The biggest allocation, of £14.2m, was for a new obstetrics development in Sheffield.

The NHS Confederation, which represents health authorities, said that by next

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

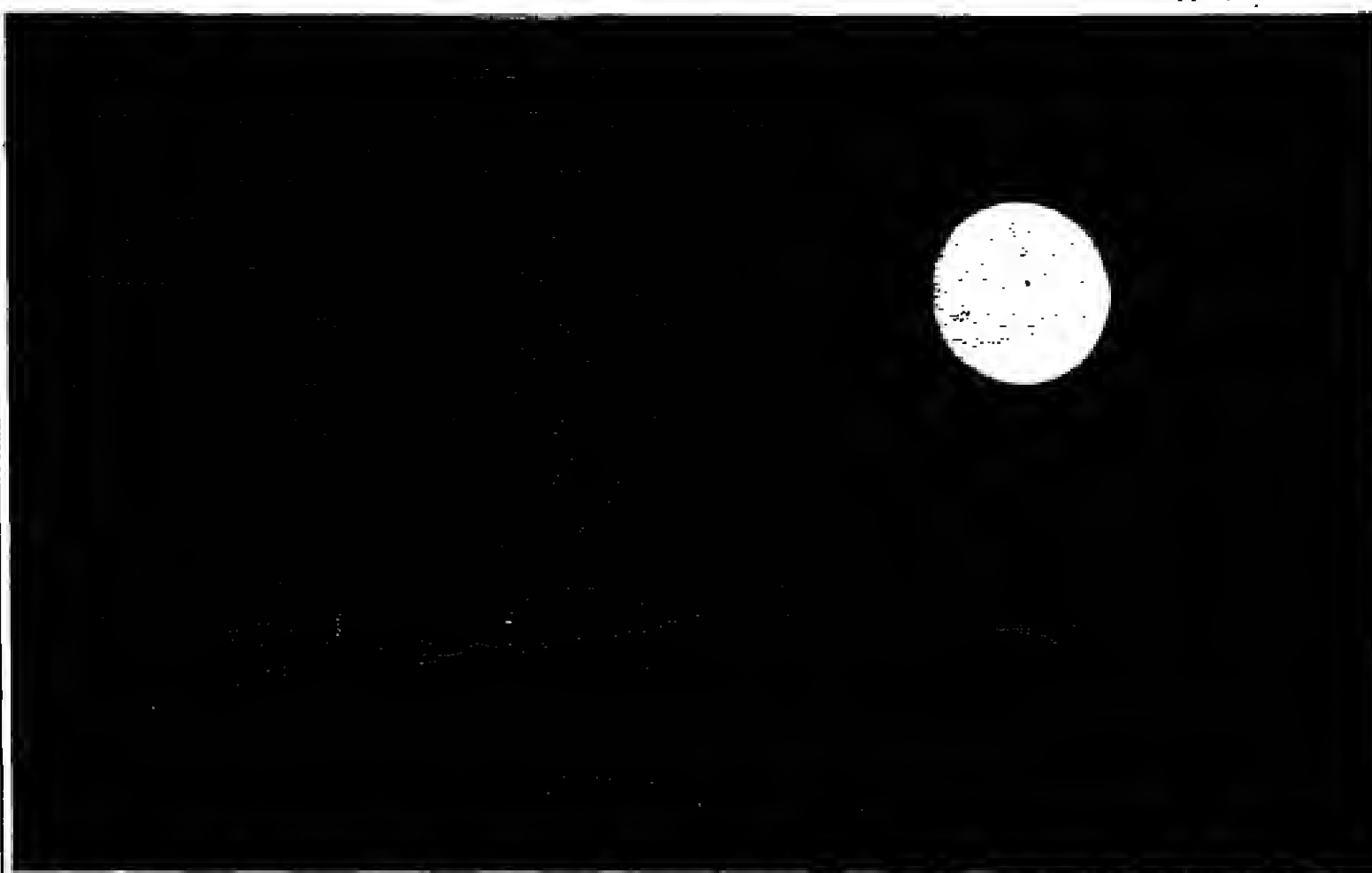
month two-thirds of trusts would have complied with government objectives aimed at phasing out mixed-sex wards.

Tim Jones, policy director, said: "This money is welcome... (but) the only problem may be that ending mixed-sex wards will result in lower occupancy rates and may mean that more beds are needed."

A National Consumer Council survey last year showed that sharing wards with the opposite sex was the biggest complaint among patients.

More than two-thirds of women and 40 per cent of men objected to the practice, which started in the 1970s.

Patients' groups welcomed the announcement but warned that a "massive political will" was needed to ensure the money was spent on ending the indignity of mixed-sex wards.



A trail biker enjoying rough terrain in Snowdonia National Park in north-west Wales. Although riding off-road is forbidden by the rules of the National Park Authority, local youths often go out under cover of poor light to avoid detection  
Steve Peake

## Sawoniuk 'ignored pleas for mercy'

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A CHILDHOOD acquaintance of Anthony Sawoniuk, the defendant in Britain's first war crimes trial, yesterday claimed he saw him force a family towards sandhills where just days before 2,900 Jews had been murdered in Belarus.

Ivan Baglay, 71, told the Old Bailey that after the Nazis massacred thousands of Jews on the festival of Yom Kippur in 1942, he watched as Mr Sawoniuk ignored a cobbler who was pleading for his life. Mr Baglay said the group was walking in the direction of the sandhills. He never saw the family again.

Mr Sawoniuk, from south London, is accused of murdering up to 20 Jews while serving as a police officer in Domachevo in Nazi-occupied Belarus between 1941-1944. He denies all the charges. The trial continues.

'ON THE DAYS I DON'T HAVE WARM FEELINGS  
TOWARDS THE PRESIDENT,  
I REGRET THE ENTIRE  
RELATIONSHIP AND  
EVER HAVING MET HIM.'



ONLY TWO PEOPLE KNOW THE TRUTH.  
NOW ONE OF THEM SPEAKS OUT.

## MONICA: THE INTERVIEW

## Deadline in Ulster moved to Easter

THE DEADLINE for a make-or-break negotiating session on de-commissioning and agreement on a new administration for Northern Ireland has effectively been pushed back until the last week in March, according to a range of sources in Belfast.

Sources across the political spectrum indicated yesterday that they believed the real deadline for agreement is 2 April which, as Good Friday, will carry a powerful symbolic force for getting the Good Friday agreement of last year up and running. The Government meanwhile responded to a recent upsurge in loyalist violence in Northern Ireland by banning two small but dangerous Protestant paramilitary groups, the Red Hand Defenders and the Orange Volunteers.

The groups, which emerged late last year, are said to be made up of dissident loyalists who have left larger organisations which are now observing ceasefires. The Red Hand Defenders have claimed two lives, one a Catholic man shot at random in north Belfast and the other an RUC officer who was struck in the face by a blast bomb during a protest against the banning of a loyalist parade.

The authorities simultaneously recognised the ceasefire declared by a republican organisation, the Irish National Liberation Army, in August of last year. This means that its two dozen prisoners are eligible to apply for early release under the terms of the Good Friday agreement.

On the political front the expectation is that an intense last-minute negotiation will go

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

down to the wire of the 2 April deadline. This represents an extension from the date of 10 March, which until recently was regarded as the target for agreement. In the meantime a flurry of meetings has been taking place involving Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and most of the province's parties.

Many of the major players are to travel to Washington for St Patrick's Day celebrations, when President Bill Clinton is expected to make it clear he will continue to take an active interest in Northern Ireland.

There is still no sign of either Sinn Féin or the Ulster Unionist party budging from their positions on de-commissioning. The republicans maintain there is no chance of any de-commissioning before an administration is formed, while the Unionist party insists on "product" in advance.

There is interest in some quarters in the idea, floated by Seamus Mallon of the SDLP, that republicans could join the administration on the condition that de-commissioning will take place over the following year.

With no sign of either republican or loyalist flexibility some variation of this idea, centring on the notion of a timetable, appears in logic to offer a basis for compromise.

At the moment, however, neither side appears to be in the business of seeking such a compromise, which means that a successful outcome depends on the last-minute talks producing mutual movement.

### IN BRIEF

#### Millions to get new phone numbers

PLANS TO change millions of phone numbers to meet increased demand will go ahead in summer, the regulator, Ofcom, said. Six areas will be affected, including London, where 0171 and 0181 will change to 0207 and 0208. It will be the capital's third revamp in 10 years.

#### Scientists talk to the animals

SCIENTISTS HAVE followed in Dr Dolittle's footsteps by talking to animals in their own language. By broadcasting clucks and grunts to poultry and pigs, researchers at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, were able to encourage young animals to feed and grow faster.

#### £55,000 for scarred crash victim

AN ASIAN car accident victim who claimed his injuries have reduced his chances of an arranged marriage was yesterday awarded £55,000 in an out-of-court settlement. Mamun Hussain Khan, 20, a student from Walsall, West Midlands, suffered serious leg injuries in the crash in 1996.

#### Lawrence landscape saved

LANDSCAPE in D H Lawrence's novel, *The Rainbow*, was yesterday saved from mining development. A High Court judge overturned a decision by Environment Secretary John Prescott allowing RJB Mining (UK) Ltd to extract coal at Shortwood Farm, Cossall, Notts.



## Sawoniuk 'ignored pleas for mercy'

BY ANTHONY W. B. & CO. 1911

A CHALFONTELL resident, Anthony Sawcival, the president in Brampton, first saw crimes trail, yesterday, when he saw him force a family to leave before 2.00 p.m. after he had been murdered in Brampton. Ivan Bagley 74 told the (10) Bailey that after the News, several thousands of Jamaicans at the festival of Year, began in 1982, he watched as Mr. Sanki ignored a soldier who was pleading for his life. Bagley said the group he was walking in the direction of sandhills. He never saw the family again.

Mr Sawomick, from 4000 London, is accused of murdering up to 20 Jews while serving as a police officer in Doonichewon Nary, occupied Belarus between 1941-1943. He deserves all the charges.

# Deadline Asterisk Led to Asterisk

BY DAVID Mc KILLIN

down to the wire in the deadline. The Washington Post editorial in the main, which said that the administration was "regarding the situation in the North as a serious threat to the future of the Republic," was the exception. The Washington Post editorial in the main, which said that the administration was "regarding the situation in the North as a serious threat to the future of the Republic," was the exception. The Washington Post editorial in the main, which said that the administration was "regarding the situation in the North as a serious threat to the future of the Republic," was the exception.

# Firms 'suppressed safer cigarettes'

**BY JEREMY LAURANCE**  
Health Editor

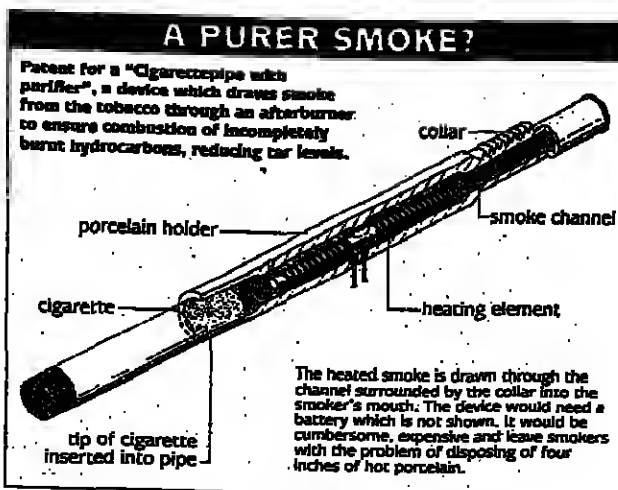
**SCORES OF** inventions for safer cigarettes have been patented by tobacco companies but never used because of industry fears that they would damage demand for the conventional product, anti-smoking charities claimed yesterday.

Ideas that might have saved thousands of lives range from improved filters to cut the quantity of noxious chemicals reaching the lungs, to the addition of catalysts to change the chemical composition of the smoke. They have all been explored over the past 25 years.

The inventions have never reached the shops because selling a "safer" cigarette created the legal and marketing problem of admitting that existing cigarettes were unsafe, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) and Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) said in a joint report.

The claims were dismissed by the tobacco industry yesterday. A spokesman said the fact that an idea was patented didn't mean it would work in practice, or be acceptable to consumers.

Investigations by the charities have uncovered 57 patents lodged with the US patent office since the early Seventies and over 100 more submitted to its UK equivalent. They include designs for elaborate devices such as the "cigarettepipe with purifier" which incorporates a



**catalytic afterburner to ensure that incompletely burnt hydrocarbons are burnt more completely, reducing the tar levels.**

The cigarette pipe would have needed a powerful suck to draw air through it, creating what is known in the trade as a "hernia effect", and would have left smokers with four inches of hot porcelain and metal to dispose of, making it impractical as well as expensive. However other, simpler, innovations such as the addition of catalysts to the tobacco itself, which work in the same way as catalytic converters in cars to absorb carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides, could have cut the incidence of disease caused by smoking, which claims 120,000 lives a year in the UK.

**Confidential tobacco industry documents released during**

litigation in the US reveal the companies' reluctance to introduce these measures. An internal memo written in 1986 by Patrick Sheehy, the chief executive of British American Tobacco, said: "In attempting to develop a 'safe' cigarette you are, by implication, in danger of being interpreted as accepting the current product is unsafe and this is not a position that I think we should take."

Dr Martin Jarvis, of the ICRF health behaviour unit, said smoke contained 4,000 chemicals, in addition to the nicotine that smokers want, which form the sticky residue in the lungs known as tar. "The cigarette is like a dirty syringe for taking nicotine," he said. "What we now know is that the tobacco companies could have made it less dirty. The current

products cause premature death for half of all long-term smokers, so even a small improvement could save thousands of lives." He said the emphasis on "low-tar" cigarettes was misleading because evidence showed that smokers compensated by puffing harder and covering up air holes in the filters with their fingers.

Clive Bates, director of ASH, said the companies should be required by the European Union to disclose all the hazardous constituents of tobacco smoke and then reduce them.

However, medical specialists warned there was no such thing as a safe cigarette. Dr Angela Hilton, of the British Thoracic Society, said: "Although we welcome any steps to make cigarettes cleaner, the only way to reduce smoking-related illness and death is to increase the numbers of people stopping smoking for good."

John Carlisle, a spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers Association, said the industry had worked with governments over the past 20 years to make cigarettes safer and some innovations had been accepted while others had not. "Patents are lodged day in and day out but the fact that they are there doesn't mean that they work, are proven or will meet consumer desires. We will carry our research to produce cigarettes that are satisfactory for our customers and meet the requirements of government."

## LIFE-SAVING PATENTS

**Liggett and Meyers, US, 1972:** Chemical filter containing a mixed-metal carbonate; reduces hydrogen cyanide.

**Philip Morris, US, 1981:** New smoking material formed by heating carbohydrate and mixing it with tobacco slurry; produces less tar and nicotine.

**Fabrique De Tabac Reunies, Switzerland, 1986:** Use of micro-organisms to improve tobacco; the micro-organisms consume nitrates and ammonium compounds in the tobacco, converting them to amino acids and proteins which are less harmful.

**Japan Tobacco Inc., 1987:** Cigarette incorporating fire retardant in its skin; reduces the delivery of tar. **No company, 1988:** Filter made from the fruiting body of a fungus, *Bacidiomyces*; absorbs tar, nicotine and other harmful particulates making the tobacco smoke

taste light and mild. The filter is contained in a separate cigarette holder. Rothmans, Benson and Hedges, Canada, 1996: Flavour reset technique; ensures that as the cigarette is smoked, flavour is maintained at a lower tar level, reducing tar delivered to the lungs.



Classic Armani designs, such as these suits with their easy tailoring and soft and fluid lines, were unveiled on the catwalk in Milan yesterday. *Luca Bruno/AF*

# Classic Armani steals show

**BY SUSANNAH FRANKEL**  
in Milan

**THE ALL-powerful** Giorgio Armani showed his main line collection and the jewel in his crown in Milan yesterday. Italy's king of minimalism and the man who dressed the Eighties continues to stick to what he does best—design classically. And he is wise to do so. This year, for the second time running, his is the most profitable company in all of Italy. Only a fool would argue with that.

Neither does Armani seem to bother with passing trends. It is arguably just this more classic - and often more kind - view of what women, and men, want to wear that made him so successful in the first place.

Earlier this week, for his Emporio line, Armani stuck to neutrals once again — not the stodgy hues that have dominated other collections so far, but rather less noisy shades. For his main line show, Armani, unlike other designers, rarely bothers with big-name models or with a spectacular setting. Instead, the audience is expected to concentrate on the clothes which are shown in his understated, if grand showroom. For daywear, easy tailoring — and trouser suits in particular — are the order of the day. These are soft-shouldered and fluid — the easiest thing in the world to wear. For evening wear, there were acres of ink-black velvet, as well as signature beaded gowns, camisoles and skirts: long, not so long, narrow or full. There are few designers in the world who rival him where these are concerned. Hopeful Oscar nominees are doubtless joining the star-spangled melee already.

BRITISH GAS GUARANTEES A DROP  
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# MC Betty puts Hansard chart-toppers on House playlist

THE ROLE of Speaker in the House could be likened to that of a disc jockey, adjusting the mood of the gathering by a careful variation of style and tempo – now a slow number to cool things down, now one that is certain to get the wallflowers jumping. There is a playlist, of course, the Order Paper detailing those MPs whose questions have been drawn, and dictating the sequence in which they will be called. But MC Betty still has considerable leeway to extend the discussion of a topic or to move on to a fresh one and, like any speaker who wants to stay sane, she has a prejudice in favour of the more entertaining MPs, the Hansard chart-

toppers who can pretty much guarantee an airing on any given subject. Yesterday she employed her prerogative in a rather striking way, calling Tam Dalyell to ask a question early in Prime Minister's Questions, despite the fact that his name wasn't on the Order Paper. "The Honourable Gentleman was fortunate to catch my eye," she said archly later, when he raised another Point of Order about Iraq. Very fortunate, given that he wasn't in his usual seat and was almost invisible behind a rack of Labour colleagues. Perhaps Ms Boothroyd is getting a little bored, or perhaps she simply agrees with Martin Bell, who was on the

playlist, and who used his moment to ask the Prime Minister whether he would encourage "more freedom for backbenchers" so that Parliament could be something more than a rubber stamp assembly. Mr Blair cheerfully pointed out that Party discipline was a relatively simple matter for Mr Bell, since his party's Chief Whip, Leader and Awkward Squad all inhabit the same white suit. But then he got serious, no paying lip-service to the honourable traditions of parliamentary scrutiny, no pious words about the importance of vigorous debate, just a flat assertion of power: "I happen to believe we are entitled as a Gov-

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

ernment to put through our programme." If Labour backbenchers had felt insurrection thrill in their veins at Mr Bell's remarks (and there

were excitable moos from both sides of the House) then Mr Blair's steely reply will have sedated them back into biddable dormancy.

The Prime Minister's commitment to party discipline isn't inconsistent, of course, with the cheerful encouragement of independence in Mr Hague's backbenchers. He was positively chummy after Ian Taylor, a prominent Europhile Tory, had asked a question about space programme investment, noting mischievously that they could discuss which of their colleagues they would most like to put in orbit. "I've a feeling we might just agree on that," grinned Mr Blair as his front bench

stabbed their fingers gleefully in Mr Hague's direction. The Tory leader's forehead glowed like a heatshield on re-entry.

But perhaps Mr Hague was already on some other planet. During Points of Order, just after the Prime Minister had left, James Pace revealed that Mr Blair had overshot when replying to a recent question about whether European inspectors had been invited to inspect British abattoirs. Taking an evens bet, the Prime Minister had assured the House, in slightly flustered tones, that the invitation had already been issued. But after diligent detective work, Mr Pace had established that

the fax only went out the following day, presumably splashed with a few drops of ministerial sweat. Maybe Mr Hague wasn't aware of this pertinent little embarrassment – if so, Mr Pace deserves to be ticked off by the whips for hogging his scoop. But if he was told, I think he seriously missed a trick. If I was preparing to hand statistics with Mr Blair, as Mr Hague was with an assault on tax rises and fudged hospital waiting lists, I would have thought it more than a little handy to be able to demonstrate that the Prime Minister's confident assertions can't always be relied upon to correspond to reality.

# Blair denies claims of tax by stealth

WILLIAM HAGUE accused the Prime Minister of imposing stealth taxes on business yesterday, dismissing Tony Blair's pledge that taxes had been reduced as "complete and utter rubbish".

The Tory leader used the last question time before the Budget next Tuesday to argue that Labour had increased taxes on business by £5bn-3-year.

During noisy exchanges, Mr Blair rebutted Mr Hague's claims, stressing that the tax burden would rise by less than the level the Tories predicted in their last Budget.

"The CBI has welcomed our reform of tax and if you are talking about the reform of tax credits, of course that will yield from the next couple of years onwards a £4bn tax cut for business. I assume it is your policy to reverse that policy now."

While it was true that the overall tax take was to increase between 1997 and 2002, the Government had public spending under control, he added.

Mr Hague said that while Mr Blair claimed business taxes

## QUESTION TIME

BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

had gone down, a "fact" that they had gone up.

The main elements of the stealth tax were the introduction of a quarterly payment system for corporation tax, abolition of dividend tax credits, increased road fuel duties, increases in stamp duty and the windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

"Before we start debate on this year's Budget, it is not time that we started to tell the truth about last year's," Mr Hague said.

Replying, Mr Blair pointed to measures such as the Working Families Tax Credit, Child Care Benefit and a cut in National Insurance which would leave many families better off.

The Prime Minister warned Mr Hague he was in danger of acting like a hypocrite if he attacked rises in petrol duty. It was the Conservatives who introduced the "petrol duty fuel escalator", he said.

He said: "Let me read what

the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, – if it's not out of order to quote him to Conservatives any more – said when he put in the escalator.

"He said: 'Any critic of the Tory Government's tax plans who also claims to support the international agreement to curb carbon dioxide emissions will be sailing dangerously near to hypocrisy'."

■ The row over the "real scandal" behind waiting list figures intensified during question time when Mr Hague claimed that the number of people waiting to get on an official hospital waiting list had doubled in the last two years. He claimed there were now nearly half a million people waiting for hospital appointments.

But Mr Blair replied waiting lists were being brought down after years of increases and the latest figures showed more outpatients were being treated.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said earlier this week that the number of people waiting for treatment in England fell by 14,200 in January.



David Rentel, Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, checking his plastic duck on Westminster Bridge in London yesterday before sending it off with more than 100 others – one for each MP serving the Thames Water region – in a race to mark the clean-up of the river. Neville Elder.

# Loyalists rebel over plan to cut disabled benefits

LOYALIST LABOUR MPs rebelled yesterday over the Government's controversial plans to cut benefit payments to some disabled people.

In the first public revolt over the Welfare Reform Bill, 11 Labour MPs tabled a Commons motion demanding a U-turn on its proposal to reduce incapacity benefit payments for disabled people who also have private pensions.

Although the first £50 a week of a pension will not be means-tested, disabled people receiving more than that will lose 50p of every £1 they are paid in incapacity benefit.

The Disability Benefits Consortium said yesterday it was "dismayed" that means-testing was being introduced for a benefit to which people had con-

tributed through their National Insurance payments.

The group warned that disabled people who had made provision for their own retirement "are likely to feel deeply betrayed when they discover that they are to be penalised for doing this".

The Commons motion, tabled by Jim Cunningham, Labour MP for Coventry South, welcomed the Government's welfare reform programme but "noted" the concerns among pressure groups about the effects on the "genuinely disabled".

It called on ministers to bring in "a more generous set

of arrangements for those recipients of incapacity benefit who draw upon occupational pensions".

The protest will be taken seriously by the Government because the 11 rebels are not among the "usual left-wing suspects" who have criticised the welfare reforms.

It raises the prospect of substantial rebellion during the Bill's passage through Parliament which could force Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, to think again.

Mr Darling argues that the number of disabled people with private pensions has increased sharply in recent years. But the rebels insist this trend was already taken into account when the previous Conservative government replaced invalidity

benefit with the present less generous scheme.

As well as tabling amendments to the cuts in incapacity benefit, the rebels hope to win changes to government plans to restrict widows' benefits.

Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory spokesman on social security, said: "The Government is wrong to penalise people who have made provision for their own retirement. Pensioners need to be aware that ministers cannot be trusted."

Mr Darling believes reform is needed because invalidity benefit has become a form of early retirement. But the Disability Alliance said yesterday: "We do not think there is anything wrong in principle with people taking early retirement on medical or disability grounds."

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Oil 'accident'

IT WAS certainly not "by purpose" that the oil pipeline which runs from the Iraqi field of Kirkuk to the south Turkish port of Ceyhan was damaged by an air strike, Tony Blair insisted.

### Bragg's hope

LORD BRAGG, the broadcaster, urged the BBC to concentrate on providing high quality programmes for a growing army of listeners and viewers.

### Lawrence case

POLICE HAVE set up a 24-hour incident room at Eltham Police station, south east London, to protect informants whose identity was exposed in the Stephen Lawrence report, Home Secretary Jack Straw disclosed.

# Tories bet on Patti Boulaye for black vote

PATTI BOULAYE, the actress and singer, is to stand as a Conservative candidate in the Greater London Assembly elections next May.

Ms Boulaye will announce today her candidacy for the new 25-seat authority.

She first found fame on TV's *New Faces* talent programme in the 1970s, and was a star of West End musicals such as *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Carmen Jones*.

Her selection by the Tories is seen as a calculated attempt to win crucial black votes in the contest.

Nearly a quarter of Londoners are from ethnic minorities and all three main political parties are keen to be seen as representative of the capital's cosmopolitan make-up.

Ms Boulaye said: "I am very much looking forward to standing and I believe deeply that I

have a mission to not only serve the interests of all people, but also to bring as many of the black and ethnic minority community to Conservative views."

Richard Ottaway, Shadow Minister for London, said that he was "delighted" that Ms Boulaye had decided to stand.

"I believe she can make an important contribution to London's political life, particularly as a voice for the ethnic community," he said.

"Furthermore, London is a centre for the arts and Patti's professional career as a performer means that she has a great deal to contribute in one of London's most important roles. This can only be good news for Londoners and makes her an ideal candidate."

## THE HOUSE



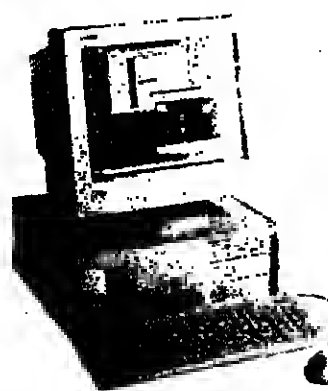
### £20m NI 'profit'

THE GOVERNMENT had taken £20m from pension savers to profit from its incompetence over the National Insurance computer fiasco, shadow social security secretary Iain Duncan Smith said. While delays in NI rebate payments had netted the Treasury £58m profit, the compensation it had agreed to pay was £38m, he said.

### Rural policies

FRANCIS MAUDE, the shadow chancellor, likened the opponents of the single currency to the gathering of interests which came together in the Countryside Alliance to fight the Government's rural policies, only on an even greater scale.

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# playlist

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# Banished islanders win right of appeal

**IN AN HISTORIC legal decision,** an Indian Ocean islander yesterday won the right to bring a High Court case against the Government for expelling him and hundreds of others from their homes to make way for a US military base.

BY KIM SENGUPTA

**Louis Bancourt won leave to begin a legal fight to return to his homeland in the Chagos Islands, which make up the British Indian Ocean Territory, which was emptied of its inhabitants to allow for the building of the giant Diego Garcia air base 32 years ago.**

At the time of the clearance, 1,400 people lived on the islands; around 3,000 exiles and their descendants now live on Mauritius, 1,200 miles from home.

The case has become an international *cause célèbre*, with human rights campaigners claiming it was a shameful, if little-known, episode in recent British history. The might of the British and American governments had been used to crush the rights of the islanders as UK officials they say. What happened has resulted in five generations being sent into exile, often in poverty, it is claimed.

The island of Diego Garcia, in the meantime, leased to the US for 50 years, has been built up into a major strategic base, which was used in the bombings of Iraq during the Gulf War

Mr Bancoult had received legal aid to bring his case. The British Government argued that the High Court had no jurisdiction over the matter and that it should go before a British Indian Ocean Territory colonial court. But Mr Justice Col Baker, granting Mr Bancoult and fellow islanders leave to seek a judicial review, dismissed the Government's arguments and ruled: 'I am satisfied the applicant has at the very least an arguable case on jurisdiction. In my judgment the

case requires careful consideration of a difficult area of constitutional law."

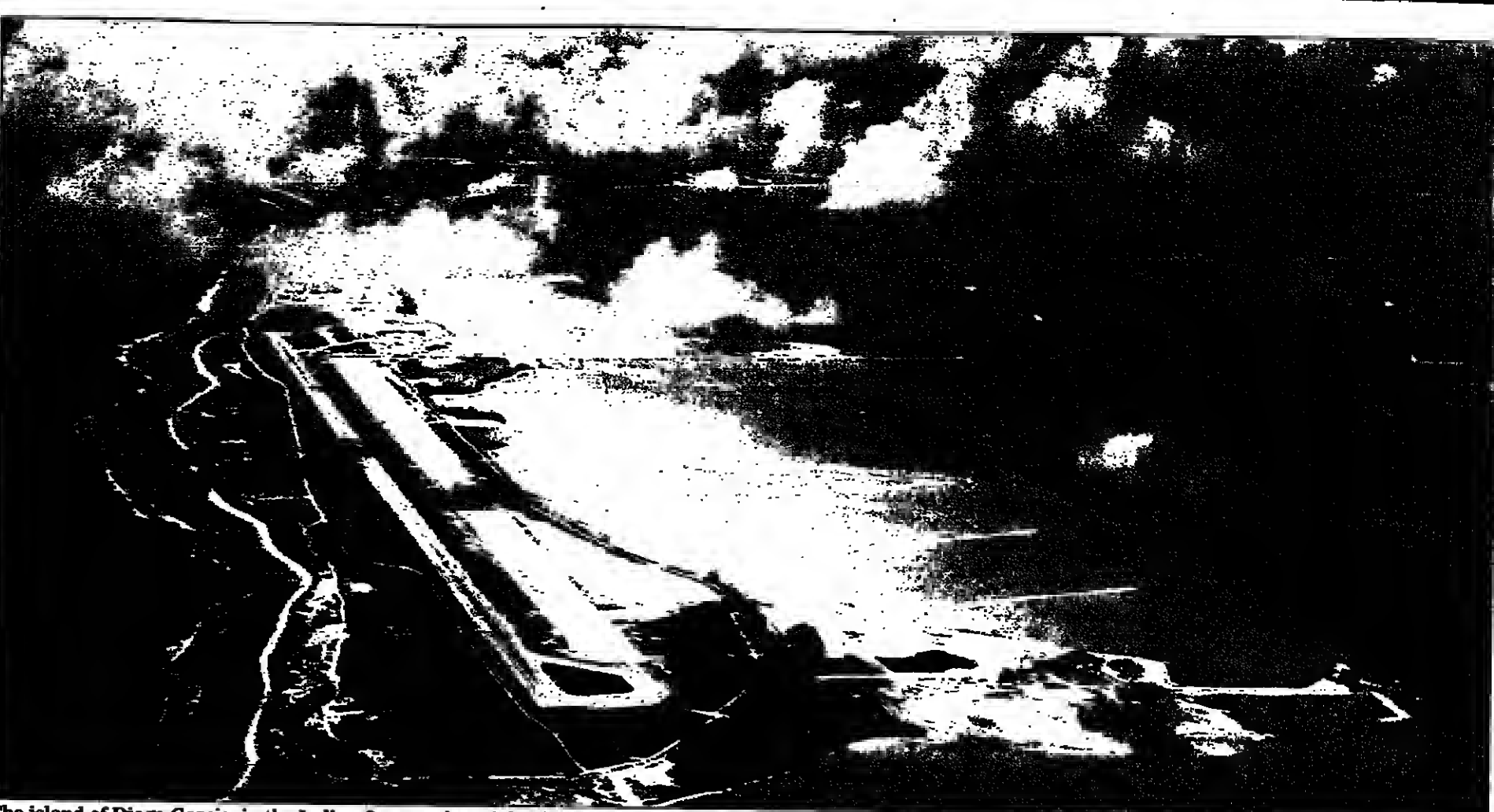
Mr Bancroft, the chairman of the Chagos Refugee Group, was not in London yesterday. Tracked down to his home in Port Louis, Mauritius and told the news by *The Independent*, he said: "This is wonderful, fantastic. We are very happy to hear what had happened, but we are also very surprised."

banished from their home on the island of Peros Banhos, part of the Chagos archipelago of which Diego Garcia is the principal island, in 1967. They had travelled to Mauritius because his sister needed medical treatment, and then discovered they were not allowed to return.

Mr Bancoult, a 35-year-old electrician, said: "I am lucky. I have got a job and I can feed my wife and children. But a lot of others are living in poverty. There are a lot of people who have problems, there are people who have committed suicide. The terrible part is just to be thrown out of our homes like that. It is difficult to describe how much we miss it, especially the older people."

"We are citizens of the UK. I have given my son the English name of Oliver. But I must admit we feel a bit betrayed. I hope to go to London very soon and perhaps Robin Cook will see me."

The Foreign Secretary has been accused of "evading the issue" when the question of Diego Garcia was raised by his Mauritius counterpart in September 1997. The Government insists that adequate financial compensation had been paid to the islanders in 1972 and 1982 and the vast majority have renounced their right to return.



The island of Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, whose inhabitants were removed in the Sixties to make way for a huge airbase for Britain and America


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# Prescott goes diving to save the Maldives

**JOKES ABOUT** Peter Mandelson are out. John Prescott, who once compared the former Cabinet minister to a crab, will be avoiding any mention of the crustaceans when he drops in on the undersea world of the Maldives.

BY COLIN BROWN

The Deputy Prime Minister announced yesterday he is planning to dive on the teeming



## Prescott: Highlighting threat of global warming

coral seabed in the Indian Ocean islands on the final leg of a trip to India to highlight the threat to one of the world's most beautiful holiday locations. If global warming is not checked by measures agreed at the earth summits, the Maldives could be lost.

As he announced the trip yesterday, Mr Prescott was asked what he was going to do to stop the islands being submerged. He said he was not planning to act like King Canute, but the getting the agreement of the developed world to meet its world climate targets on pollution is one way of holding back the waters.

The Maldives is the fifth country to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, which he helped to negotiate in 1997 setting a legally-binding global target of 5 per cent cuts in greenhouse gases by 2012.

The warm waters of the Maldives will present no fears for Mr Prescott, who, in Opposition, trained as a diver as part of campaign he led for safety on North Sea oil rigs, and met the late Jacques Cousteau, the French underwater explorer. He even swam two miles along the cold and murky River Thames from Chelsea Bridge to Westminster to present a petition to Downing Street in a wet suit, when Lady Thatcher was in office, in a protest about dumping at sea.

**The Deputy Prime Minister** flew to India last night, where he will spend a week on an official visit, carrying a pledge of £50,000 to help save tigers from the threat of extinction. The aid brings the total cash donated by Britain to protect dwindling tiger numbers there to £200,000.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who is to be given a special award by Chester Zoo for his conservation work for tigers, told a London news conference that the trip was a "chance to listen and learn" from India about its commitment to meeting its targets on climate change.

Mr Prescott is to meet India's premier A B Vajpayee and make a keynote speech at the Millennium Tiger Conference in Delhi on Friday.

The former merchant seaman is planning an international initiative, after talks with Al Gore, the American vice president, to protect the seas.

Leading article.  
Review, page 3

**The House**



**£20m NI profit**  
THE GROUP has taken a £20m profit after a year of intense restructuring. National Insurance Contributions have been reduced by £1.5m, and the group has been able to reduce its share of the costs of the British Gas group. The group has also been able to reduce its share of the costs of the British Gas group. The group has also been able to reduce its share of the costs of the British Gas group.



# Workers win legal right to 48-hour week

IN THE first legal test of the new law on working time, the High Court yesterday approved a short cut to employment rights which could benefit millions of workers. Mr Justice Gage decided that employees have the right to take an employer to court if they are being forced to work more than 48 hours a week, rather than wait for official organisations to take the initiative.

The Health and Safety Executive, which will police the law in factories, and local authorities - which will do the same for offices - have both indicated that they would enforce the regulations with a "light touch".

But after yesterday's ruling against RJB Mining at the High Court in London, many staff will be able to get injunctions to prevent employers making them work more than 48 hours, averaged over 17 weeks.

The case was brought by five members of the pit supervisors' union Nacods, who were granted a declaration allowing them to refuse to work until their hours averaged out at 48.

The ruling means that unions have more power to de-

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

mand higher rates for working over the limit. RJB Mining claimed this was the union's motive in bringing the action. The company was granted leave to take the case to the Court of Appeal.

Martin Harvey, for the pitmen, said the judgment made it clear that employees had the right not to work more than 48 hours a week unless they wanted to. In cases where businesses breached injunctions, staff would be able to go to an employment tribunal and claim compensation, he said.

Management at RJB Mining argued that the European Union's Working Time Directive, which was incorporated into British law last October, created no obligations or rights and was not to be read as part of a contract of employment. The company also claimed that the regulations could not be made the subject of civil proceedings in the ordinary courts.

The five colliery supervisors work in or around Yorkshire where 353 of their colleagues out-

of 400 have followed the advice of their union and refused to sign an opt-out from the regulations. They have continued working "under protest" despite their claim of excess hours.

Management representatives told the judge that as soon as it became clear employees were refusing to sign opt-outs, RJB took action to ensure that the 48-hour limit would be introduced at the earliest opportunity. It was therefore a very short-term problem which would disappear within weeks, but which RJB feared would become an acute problem if the supervisors won their case.

The judge rejected RJB's argument that the rules could only be enforced through criminal proceedings brought against an employer by the Health and Safety Executive. He said it was an issue of contractual obligation which could therefore be considered by the civil courts.

The Institute of Directors said in a statement that the ruling had confirmed its fears that the directive would "impair the ability of employers to run their companies in the most productive and flexible way".



Jon Vizor with 1cm thick speakers. They produce sound which appears to come from everywhere. Tom Craig

## Turning your wall into a speaker

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

IT BEGAN with a British scientist's quest to understand why modern military aircraft have noisier cockpits. The answer means that from this weekend, you can replace your bulky speakers with a wafer-thin pair which can be hung on the wall.

But that's only the start, according to Jon Vizor, marketing director of NXT, a British audio company.

"Think how many speakers there are in your home - the clock radio, TV set, transistor radio. We will be able to provide speakers for all of those."

The sound, too, amazes first-time listeners: it appears to come from everywhere.

The technology, based on the solution of a complex mathematical problem, means that you can make any solid surface, from a credit card to a cinema screen, into a loudspeaker.

The answer to the question of why the cockpits of modern aircraft are so noisy, is that the canopy acts like a loudspeaker. By applying that finding - which requires the solution to a complex mathematical equation including eight or so variables - to rigid surfaces, Henry Azima and Neil Harris, two British mathematicians, discovered the new way to make a loudspeaker.

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## Car buyers pay for dealers' dirty tricks

CAR DEALERS are giving misleading advice to British consumers to deter them from going to the Continent to buy a cheaper car, a consumers' organisation claimed today.

The Consumers' Association said buyers were being told it was impossible to buy a right-hand drive car in either Holland or Belgium - a blatant untruth.

It contacted dealers across the UK asking how to import cars from Europe, where they are up to 60 per cent cheaper. Posing as a consumer, researchers asked about importing a Mazda, a Mitsubishi and a Subaru from Holland or Belgium. It said they were given "misleading and plainly wrong information".

In a report in Which? magazine, published today, the association said tricks used by dealers, included claims that: ■ The customer would have trouble getting any work done on the car or getting hold of spare parts, even though dealers are obliged to honour war-

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

ranties across the European Union;

■ The car could fail its three-year MOT test because cars bought outside the UK had different emissions standards, although all cars sold in the EU must meet the same standards;

■ It was impossible to buy a right-hand drive car in either Holland or Belgium - a blatant untruth;

■ Any warranty work would have to be paid for up-front and the money claimed back from the European dealer - something that would be in breach of EU regulations.

The association said several dealers had tried to confuse its researchers by talking about the different rules that govern "grey imports" - cars originating outside the EU.

The association said it had sent a dossier of evidence to the European Commission, which oversees the rules covering

dealers. "It's bad enough that UK car buyers have either to pay over the odds, or go to the trouble of importing a car. But it adds insult to injury when car dealers so clearly mislead car buyers about their rights," said Helen Parker, editor of Which? "Car buyers could make considerable savings by buying abroad but car dealers are trying to put them off."

The Retail Motor Industry Federation said many manufacturers had set up consumer helplines. Chris McGowan, chief executive, said: "I am genuinely taken aback at these answers which sound like they thought they were being asked about grey imports. We have worked hard to make sure that consumers know where they can go to buy a car."

Mitsubishi attacked the report as "misleading". Stephen Dixon, managing director of Mitsubishi Motors in the UK, said the association should concentrate on the selling practices of dealers in the grey import market.

## Blair devotee to quit parliament for family

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

ONE OF THE Labour Party's most Blairite female Members of Parliament is to stand down at the next general election in order to spend more time with her two young children.

Judith Church, the MP for Dagenham, announced her decision yesterday, citing "personal family reasons".

Ms Church, a former trade-union official, made her reputation as a keen moderniser when she sat on the party's ruling National Executive Committee from 1992 to 1994.

She was elected in a by-



Church: Keen moderniser

election in 1994 and caused anger among her former employers, the Manufacturing Science Finance trade union, when she gave enthusiastic

backing to Tony Blair's New Labour project.

The MP was recently attacked for her poor attendance record in the House of Commons, but her supporters have pointed out that her absence was due to illness.

Ms Church's marriage broke up just before the last general election and friends say that she has found it difficult to cope as a single mother.

"It has been a great privilege to represent the people of Dagenham in Westminster and I have enjoyed this task. My work as an MP will continue until the next election," she said yesterday.

## Quango 'not corrupt'

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

THE QUANGO that awards radio licences was cleared of corruption yesterday after allegations were made last year about how an East Anglian station won its licence.

But the Radio Authority, which called in auditors after accusations were made by a former director on BBC2's *Newsnight* about the award of Vibe FM's licence in 1997, is still awaiting the outcome of a separate police investigation into a senior member of its staff.

Janet Lee, the authority's programming and advertising

director, is on police bail pending an investigation into whether a radio station paid for some flights she took overseas.

Grant Thornton, the auditors, investigated the separate matter of accusations about the award of a licence to Vibe FM amid allegations that an authority meeting awarded the licence after a previous meeting had awarded it to a rival bidder.

The report revealed that the authority's chairman, Sir Peter

Gibbins, had a shareholding in the winning radio group, but that this shareholding was known to the authority and had been placed in a charitable trust.

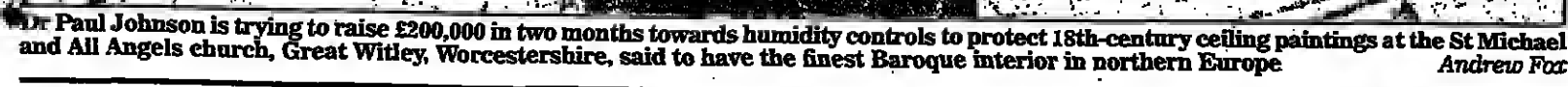
The auditors have recommended that the authority tighten up some of its procedures for awarding licences.

The Radio Authority plans to write to the BBC asking it to broadcast a retraction of what it described as a "biased and unbalanced" news story. The BBC said yesterday that it has to study the auditors' report before responding to it.

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# Who decides which shoes you wear to work: You, your wife or Sally Gunnell?

Scratch a senior executive and the odds are

you'll find a man willing to defer to his

wife's sense of what's suitable for the

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from a former Olympic and Common-

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Champion is, surely, a rarer breed.

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with the wrong idea, allow us

to explain. As a professional

athlete, Ms. Gunnell goes to work in

footwear designed to support her feet and protect

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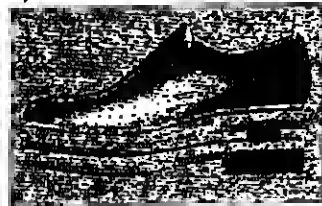


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Holocaust tria  
opens in Croat

JP 11/10/150





A whale expert examining the body of a 40-ton animal, believed to be from the North Atlantic, on France's Normandy coast yesterday. AFP

## German killer faces gas chamber in US

By ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

A GERMAN national, Walter LaGrand, was due to make the final stage of his long journey to the gas chamber in Arizona yesterday, after a prolonged and painful process that saw his chances of survival rise and then collapse.

LaGrand, 37, was born in Germany, and the German authorities contended that international rules on his access to the consul had been broken. The convicted murderer was the subject of an appeal from the German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, a state clemency panel and the World Court. His brother, Karl, was executed last week. The two were found guilty of stabbing a bank manager to death in 1982 during an abortive bank robbery.

The German government had complained that it was unaware until 1992 that the two were German nationals; they were born there, though they



LaGrand: Appeal for clemency was rejected

came to the US when very young. But the German embassy said yesterday that Arizona's governor, Jane Hull, believed the execution was in the interests of the victims.

"Because of domestic political reasons the state of Arizona has a different view of the legal situation than the German government," the German ambassador, Jürgen Chrobog, said. The death penalty is "very popular" in Arizona, he said.

The World Court in The Hague asked the United States to delay the execution while it considered a German complaint, but US feelings about the World Court are at best ambiguous and at worst dismissive. The case had stirred deep feelings in Germany, which has no death penalty. The Arizona State board of executive clemency asked for a 60-day stay of execution while the case was considered, but to no avail.

Executions in the US are often the subject of controversy in Europe, where the Americans' swift recourse to the electric chair, lethal injection or gas chamber is seen as inhumane. LaGrand was to be executed in the gas chamber, although the state has switched to lethal injection, because he was convicted before the method was changed. Both he and his brother chose the gas chamber hoping that it might help their appeal, based on the US constitution's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment.

## Serbs get ready for war with the West

YUGOSLAV ARMY forces are digging in positions along Kosovo's southern border with Macedonia and forcing thousands of Albanian villagers to flee, apparently in preparation to confront Nato troops should they try to march north.

The Serbs oppose Western plans for a Nato-led force to police a potential peace agreement in Kosovo between the government and ethnic Albanian rebels from the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

Shell casings from 30mm anti-aircraft cannon marked a spot along the main road to Pristina, from where troops fired on the village of Gajre. Further along the road, soldiers sat in new bunkers. On the hills nearby hundreds of men, women and children are living in the open, sleeping under plastic stretched over wooden frames.

The movement of tanks, anti-aircraft guns and artillery pieces around the border town of Djeneral Jankovic and attacks on mountain villages have prompted the KLA to move its own soldiers into the area. Belgrade had earlier agreed to station only three army companies in Kosovo. Now there are 20 in the area, according to informed sources.

Shaban Gupi, an Albanian official in Djeneral Jankovic, said the region had been peaceful until 21 February, when police shot dead a prominent local Albanian and his son.

A Western monitor in Kosovo agreed that the Yugoslav army appeared to be taking action to prevent Nato forces in Macedonia from entering Kosovo. Another monitor said: "They

By EMMA DAILY  
in Djeneral Jankovic

know Nato is building up in Macedonia and they have to take military measures."

At least 2,000 people took shelter in Djeneral Jankovic this week fearing attacks by the army, while 1,200 more moved out to Macedonia. Yesterday, United Nations officials found another group of 200 Kosovars who had been camping in the open air for five nights.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 5,000 people have left the border area since Saturday.

The village of Gorance, perched on a high plain near the border crossing, has a normal population of just under a thousand. Yesterday, four men were to be seen on the dusty main street with flocks of sheep, dogs, roosters and wandering cows.

Uniformed men wearing masks entered Gorance three days ago, searching houses and intimidating the inhabitants, according to Lushjani Haki, 76, who was one of the few to stay behind. The sound of shooting nearby convinced almost everyone to leave.

"We never had troubles before," Mr Haki said. His neighbours fled to Macedonia, less than two miles away. "It's very risky because the border is mined but nobody thought of that when they left, they just wanted to go."

The Yugoslav authorities, however, are accusing the KLA and journalists of "stimulating" a humanitarian disaster in the region.

## Holocaust trial opens in Croatia

THE FIRST Holocaust-era war crimes trial opens in Croatia today. Dinko Sakic, a former commander of Jasenovac concentration camp, is charged over the deaths of at least 2,000 people at the extermination centre south of the capital, Zagreb. Leaders of the 2,500-strong Jewish community in Zagreb say the trial has historical importance for Croatia. Croatian leaders, who declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, have been accused of drawing inspiration from the Fascist regime of the Forties.

"Sakic is the last living commander of a concentration camp in Europe. You cannot compare him with Adolf Eichmann [the German Nazi hanged in Jerusalem in 1962 for crimes against the Jewish people], but what that trial meant in Israel, the Sakic trial means for Croatia," Slavko Goldstein, a Jewish community leader, said.

By ADAM LEBOR  
in Zagreb

According to the *Encyclopaedia of the Holocaust*, 600,000 people were killed at Jasenovac, mostly Serbs but also Jews, gypsies and other opponents of the regime. Croatian historians put the figure at around 35,000.

Croatian officials launched a criminal investigation into Sakic, 76, after he gave an interview last April to Argentine television in which he reportedly acknowledged being a commander at Jasenovac. "This is the trial of one man ... but through the trial the truth about Jasenovac, the Holocaust and the genocide against Serbs and gypsies will be re-established," Mr Goldstein said.

Sakic is unlikely to be in court for the opening of the trial as he was taken ill on Tuesday night and taken to hospital.

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The Lewinsky industry: Former intern tells of 'sensuous' President as she embarks on an international PR blitz

# 'I almost killed myself in a hotel'

WHEN THEIR affair was hot, she called him "Handsome". When it cooled, he was "the big creep".

In a television interview aired yesterday, Monica Lewinsky says President Bill Clinton was simply "100 per cent politician". "I felt like a piece of trash. I felt dirty and I felt used. I was disappointed," the former White House trainee says in an ABC television interview with Barbara Walters.

In a separate interview with Channel 4's Jon Snow, whose conversation with Ms Lewinsky airs in Britain tonight, Ms Lewinsky says she briefly considered taking her own life when prosecutors first challenged her about her affair with the President.

The interviews were given to promote the book, *Monica's Story*. The book, by Andrew Morton, the biographer of Diana, Princess of Wales, is due out in Britain tomorrow.

In the Snow interview, Ms Lewinsky admits that such was her distress and confusion on

By DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

the day she was first grilled by prosecutors from the office of Kenneth Starr, that suicide seemed a good solution. She tells Snow of the encounter last January in a Washington hotel.

"I remember looking out the window and thinking, 'well, I can't begin to fathom what is going to unfold here and I can't begin to think of how this is going to hurt the President, hurt my family'. And I thought, 'well, maybe if I'm not here, it won't happen'," she says.

The excerpts released by Channel 4 and ABC TV both show a young woman clearly exhausted by the trauma of the last 13 months and still suffering from conflicting feelings about Mr Clinton.

Recalling with Ms Walters the day last August when the President admitted to the affair, both in testimony to Mr Starr's grand jury and to the nation on network television, Ms Lewin-

sky says she felt then like "a piece of trash". Asked if she concluded that she had been "servicing" Mr Clinton all that time, she answers that that was "the impression he gave".

Ms Lewinsky describes the President as "a very sensual man" who may be unable to hold back his sexual impulses. "I think he struggles with his sensuality because I don't think he thinks it's OK," she tells Ms Walters. "I think he holds himself back. And then he can't."

There was speculation yesterday that Ms Lewinsky may face fresh trouble from Mr Starr because of some of her statements. Last month, the special prosecutor, who has granted her immunity from prosecution, agreed to the television interviews on the condition Ms Lewinsky did not discuss the conduct of his office.

While Ms Lewinsky apparently steers clear of Mr Starr with Ms Walters, she may have been less cautious with Jon Snow. In *Monica's Story*, she is

thought to go into considerable detail about her experiences with Mr Starr and his associates. The book comes out in the US today.

About being forced to testify over and over about the relationship, Ms Lewinsky told Mr Snow: "This has been a humiliating, violating, frightening experience... my innermost thoughts - intimate, private moments between two people - being discussed by others all over the world. It's disgusting".

Yesterday, a White House spokesman dismissed as "fiction" claims that Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, had blackmailed the President after an agent intercepted his passion-filled telephone chats with Ms Lewinsky. The allegations come in a book to be published in Britain next week.

According to Gordon Thomas, author of *Gideon's Spies - the Secret History of Mossad*, the Israeli agent recorded 30 hours of compromising conversations between the couple.

Barbara Walters, left, with Monica Lewinsky, who told the ABC TV interviewer she had felt used

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\*Legal &amp; General 'Value of a Mum' Survey 1996.



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\$62,589	15 years	Female	\$5.00
\$90,000	15 years	Joint lives <sup>1</sup>	\$12.18
\$120,000	15 years	Joint lives <sup>1</sup>	\$15.75

<sup>1</sup>Paid out on first death. Examples based on a male non-smoker aged 30 and a female non-smoker aged 30. Acceptance subject to individual details.Please send me a no-obligation quotation and information pack on the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.  
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## Zippergate tour will make her millions

FIRST THE scandal, now the pay dirt. In so far as anyone can be said to have gained from having their sexual peccadilloes paraded before the world, Monica Lewinsky is emerging as the clearest beneficiary of Zippergate.

To the £1m which the British publisher Michael O'Mara paid her for the worldwide book rights to her story, she can now add £750,000, earned from Channel 4's sale of tonight's *Dispatches* programme to more than 30 countries.

Channel 4 has not done badly out of it, either. "Monica: The Interview" has so far earned the network more than £700,000. The author Andrew Morton, already a millionaire from his biography of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, was handed a reported advance of £600,000 for his authorised biography. And spying the potential of the slot (remember that blue dress?), the stain-remover soap Vanish has booked a slot in one of the ad breaks.

For those choosing to sling their baggage aboard Ms Lewinsky's wagon during the next few weeks, it promises to be a lucrative ride - starting with Jon Snow's interview tonight, continuing tomorrow with the British launch of Mr Morton's *Monica's Story* and carrying on over the next fortnight as Ms Lewinsky and her entourage embark on a book-signing tour of Britain.

Although Channel 4 paid £400,000 to Ms Lewinsky, tonight's programme works out to be good value indeed. Channel 4 gets 25 per cent of the money made from selling the

By RHYNS WILLIAMS  
AND PAUL MCCANN

programme internationally - some £350,000. Ms Lewinsky's final share will be some £1m.

The channel is also charging a premium for ads during the interview - around £20,000 for a 30-second slot, double the normal rate - which should bring in another £350,000. Of course, the figure pales beside the \$900,000 demanded by ABC for a single 30-second slot during last night's US broadcast of the Barbara Walters interview.

Michael O'Mara paid Ms Lewinsky £1m for the worldwide book rights, secured last November amid a marked reluctance on the part of American publishing houses to touch the story. The £16.99 book will have a print run of 100,000 in the UK (a normal hardback print run is around 5,000, while only 50,000 copies of *Diana: Her True Story* were produced initially); 450,000 copies of *Monica's Story* will be run off for a now apparently receptive US market.

Mr O'Mara will break into profit with worldwide translation rights, which so far run to 10 countries. He sold the US rights to St Martin's Press for \$600,000.

Another likely beneficiary of Ms Lewinsky's notoriety is the UK version of the women's magazine, *Marie Claire*. It will feature the former White House intern on the cover, photographed by Patrick Demarchelier, who created the famous Diana front cover for *Vogue* in 1991. The magazine did not pay a penny to secure Ms Lewinsky's involvement.

## PUBLICITY MAKERS



Jon Snow, interviewer. Much-admired news anchor known for his ties. His background in hard news did not make him the most obvious choice as an interviewer of the President's ex-mistress.



Michael Jackson, chief executive of Channel 4. Eyebrows were raised when he paid £400,000 for interview rights. He will be pleased with the impression the programme has left on his bottom line.

Andrew Morton, author of biography. Made a million from *Diana: Her True Story* and its posthumous update. His name on *Monica's Story* gives it a stamp of professionalism.

Michael O'Mara, publisher of biography. The maverick, south London publisher who has succeeded where US publishing houses were reluctant or afraid to go.

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# World's worst dump gets £3m from UK for clean-up

THE FOREIGN Secretary, Robin Cook, promised £3m towards an ecological clean up after he saw yesterday the dire state of the Arctic port of Murmansk, once the pride of the Soviet navy, but now said to be the world's biggest nuclear dumping ground.

BY HELEN WOMACK  
in Moscow

with Geiger counters, spent the day at Atomflot, the plant that stores and processes liquid waste from Russia's atomic icebreakers as well as the Northern Fleet.

are some 800 discarded reactor cores, or 20 per cent of the world's total, on the Kola Peninsula and warn that leaks into the sea could affect Norway and Britain.

The Foreign Secretary said Britain would give money for new storage casks to hold the waste safely until it could be reprocessed. "Britain by itself

cannot solve the problem," he said. "I hope what we do in Murmansk is something of a catalyst for the release of more resources."

Norway and the European Union have already granted \$100m (£64.1m) but tens of billions are said to be required for a thorough clean up, which could take 40 years.

"Part of the problem," said Mr Cook, "is the lack of openness and the fact that we're getting close to what they [the Russians] see as the heart of their defence sector."

British officials said the Foreign Secretary would tactfully take up the case of Alexander Nikitin, a former Soviet naval captain now facing treason

charges for having blown the whistle on pollution to a Norwegian environmental organisation.

From Murmansk, Mr Cook flew to Moscow, where he will meet the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov. The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, had a rough ride on her recent visit to Russia, when

relations between Moscow and Washington were frostier than at any time since the Cold War. Because of its involvement in the bombing of Iraq, Britain may also feel the chill. "But we hope we can agree to differ on some things, if we and the Russians are still friends," said a British official. On Yugoslavia, where the West and Russia

also fail to see eye to eye, Mr Cook will try to persuade Mr Ivanov that Russia should take part in any Nato-led peace-keeping operation in Kosovo.

At the end of the week, Mr Cook will have his first meeting with Yevgeny Primakov, the Prime Minister, and the man who really runs Russia, at Sochi on the Black Sea.

## Troops pour in to quell Spice Island

THOUSANDS OF Indonesian troops continued to land in the Spice Islands yesterday as Islamic leaders threatened a holy war against Christians engaged in a brutal conflict with Muslim neighbours on the island of Ambon.

"Right now we call for a jihad [holy war], since more and more Muslims are being shot down," said Eggy Sudjana, chairman of the Indonesian Trade Union of Muslims Brotherhood in Jakarta. Fadli Zon, of the Islamic Star Crescent party, urged Muslims to travel to Ambon, where 200 people have been murdered in six weeks of religious conflict. "The police and military are on [the Christians'] side," Mr Fadli said. "It's only when you're ready for war that there is peace."

Two thousand students demonstrated outside the Defence and Security Ministry in Jakarta, chanting "Jihad" and "God is great" and accusing military commanders of failing to defend Muslims.

"Stop killing and destroying Muslims in Ambon," read their banners, as well as "Send us now to Ambon" and "We are ready to die as martyrs". What began as an obscure conflict in a faraway corner of the archipelago, 1,400 miles from the capital, has turned into a huge embarrassment for the Indonesian armed forces, General Wiranto, reiterated that his policy would be to shoot rioters on sight, though he denied this means shooting to kill. "I have ordered them to take harsh action against anyone, regardless of ethnic and religious background. I ordered the troops to shoot at their feet so as to paralyse them, but not to kill."

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
in Ambon, Indonesia

Indonesian President, BJ Habibie, as police and soldiers have proved themselves incapable of bringing an end to the killing.

In Ambon, many troops, including marines and members of the elite Kostrad strategic command, disembarked in the main harbour. Some 1,400 have arrived since Tuesday, but there are fights, fires and explosions every day.

The funeral of Marlen Sitantola, a Christian university lecturer, murdered and mutilated by unknown assailants on Tuesday, took place without any violence yesterday, but the centre of the town of Ambon was closed off in the afternoon after a Christian was stabbed near the church where he was sheltering.

Women and children fled from the streets to their homes, roads were closed and police and soldiers sealed off the Muslim neighbourhood from where the attackers had allegedly come. For an hour, the streets - many of them lined with burnt-out houses, schools, cinemas and hotels - were deserted. The silence was punctuated by occasional pops and booms, apparently from home-made guns and bombs. "The commander of the Indonesian armed forces, General Wiranto, reiterated that his policy would be to shoot rioters on sight, though he denied this means shooting to kill. "I have ordered them to take harsh action against anyone, regardless of ethnic and religious background. I ordered the troops to shoot at their feet so as to paralyse them, but not to kill."

Members of both religious communities insisted the armed forces were prejudiced against them.

On Monday, at least three Muslims died, allegedly after being shot by Christian policemen.

Christians at the Resurrection Community Centre cheered when television news carried reports of General Wiranto's other announcement - the sacking of the island's police chief, Colonel Karyono Sumodinoto.

The Antara news agency reported that General Wiranto may be summoned by the Indonesian parliament and taken to task for the military's failure to restore order in Ambon. "This incident is no longer a trivial matter," an MP Aisyah Amby, told the agency. "This slaying of residents has become a protracted problem, giving the impression that the security apparatus is incapable of handling the matter."



Islamic students protesting in Jakarta yesterday over the killing of Muslims in Ambon

Reuters

## Taliban outlaw leather jackets

BY PETER POPHAM

THEY HAVE banned television, video cassette recorders, cameras, chess, homing pigeons, fighting partridges, short beards and long hair (for men). They have outlawed brown paper bags (in case they were manufactured from pages from the Koran), white socks for women, and all musical instruments except the tambourine.

But the Afghan Taliban militia induced new depths of gloom and bafflement among their beleaguered subjects this week when they sought to bully the young men of Kabul into discarding their leather jackets. In northern and central districts of Kabul yesterday they stopped young men wearing leather jackets, tore them off and slashed them with knives before throwing them into the street. They warned that leather coats were prohibited by Islam.

The initiative sent prices of leather jackets in the Afghan capital's markets tumbling from 1.6 million Afghanis (£23) to 1.2 million Afghanis.

A despondent Afghan in Kabul lamented: "They will be ordering us to throw away our shoes next."

Leather jackets are perceived as a powerful symbol of Westernisation. Perhaps the young Taliban, whose notion of chic consists of layers of flowing cotton, simply felt intimidated by the city's youth, and took steps to put it right.

## Eritrea struggles to get on track but flies high in war

FRONTLINE  
ASMAR



Eritrea has revived its rail system, built by Italian troops in 1897, by retrieving old stock and track

A WHISTLING black steam engine and a string of canopied rail carriages chug out of Ginda station, claiming a place, without shame, at the turn of the millennium. Renovated, refurbished and moving at a maximum speed of 50 kilometres an hour, this is Eritrea's most ambitious contemporary transportation project - the reactivation of an engine system built by Italian Alpine troops in 1897. It has taken four years to relay the tracks as far as Ginda, 50 kilometres from Massawa port, and will take more to get as far as the capital Asmara.

It epitomises the philosophy of self-reliance in Africa's newest state in the Horn of Africa, where what is used is what is at hand. When Evelyn Waugh wrote fondly of the train in Scoop, he said passengers used to get off to pick blackberries in the mountains approaching Asmara, then jump back on.

This is a project that the Eritrean President, Issaias Afewerki, has personally nurtured - jumping on for an inaugural ride this month - turning down an offer from Saudi Arabia to pay good money for the "scrap metal", and instead mobilising veteran octogenarian mechanics to reactivate history.

Considered mad at first - or at least eccentric - it really is working, and, donors now agree, shows remarkably good economic sense for a poor, developing country.

But hold on, apply the brakes... Isn't this, too, the country that has just spent more than an estimated \$120m (£75m) on the latest MiG fighter jets, in order to have the capability of bombing Ethiopia? Is this not also the country where some 30 Russian mechanics drink vodka and collect girls in the bars on the airport road. The Russians are here to service - and probably fly - technology that is so sophisticated and deadly that even the most

skilful Eritrean pilot finds himself behind the times. It is where the expanding airport facilities in Asmara manage to accommodate foreign military cargo planes, including, last week, the massive Iranian-flagged *Ilusion* - whose secret load was unlikely to be spare parts for the steam engine from Massawa.

The cost of war also extends to making your neighbours' enemies your friends. Somalia's fighting factions have, already - according to regional weapons experts - received more arms from the two sides over the last few months than from anywhere else over the last few years.

Preoccupation with the war with Ethiopia - briefly a friendly neighbour which facilitated Eritrean independence in 1993 but, in the larger picture, historically seen here as the repressive empire state which, under

Emperor Haile Selassie, annexed the tiny Italian colony in a sell-out deal - has made a huge impact on a country of only 3.5 million people.

The steam train has come to a halt. "We are waiting for the go-ahead to lay the rails to Asmara," says Yohannes Asmelash, deputy station manager at Ginda.

He appears convinced that nothing, not even a high-tech war, can stand in the way of the locomotives.

One setback is the loss of Ethiopian labour. When the conflict started last May, many Ethiopians left. They had a special role in the railway project in tracing the millions of pieces of railway track that went missing when, in 1974, Eritrea started its war of independence against Ethiopia's notorious Soviet-supported Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Some 270kms of railway dis-

appeared, ripped up by Ethiopian soldiers to reinforce the trenches and bunkers. Hundreds of former fighters have been mobilised over the last few years to find the old shelters and retrieve the precious metal.

Now, the Ethiopians have retaken the bit of land that Eritrea claimed as its own - to great fanfare in Addis Ababa - but there is no official ceasefire. The tension over colonial borders, and access to the Red Sea, will continue. Eritrean television runs emotive scenes from the days of Emperor Haile Selassie, of Mengistu Haile Mariam screaming and parading in Revolutionary Square, and, it seems, can comfortably extend the footage to include today's Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi - once considered a friend.

It was not difficult for hundreds of thousands of former fighters to slip back into old roles abandoned only eight years ago.

Mobile hospitals and tea canteens were skilfully set up in the network of trenches, which run like rabbit warrens along the gullies and ridges of the unforgiving mountainous terrain.

"It's all a bit too Napoleonic for me," said one aid worker, watching pictures on satellite television of a shell-shocked, Eritrean soldier vomiting in the trenches, hair grey with dust from an exploded shell, clutching a Kalashnikov rifle and staring wildly at the camera.

It is a conflict where the past is as important as the present, and is unlikely to be solved by today's diplomats pleading peace, development and democracy.

Ancient languages will be redeployed; and military solutions - which worked well enough before - will punctuate a regional dialogue, while the dollars, sadly, flow abroad.

LUCY HANNAN

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

## BUSINESS

## Goldman Sachs gives the go-ahead for \$25bn float

## BRIEFING

## Monsanto in merger rumours

SHARES IN Monsanto jumped 6 per cent in early New York trade yesterday following reports that the US pharmaceutical giant was in merger talks with its rival DuPont. A deal would create the world's biggest seller of agriculture products, with annual sales of more than \$6bn. It would also dominate the market for genetically modified crops, which the UK's market-leader, Zeneca, this week predicted could grow from \$35bn today to \$70bn by 2020. By then, Zeneca forecast, DuPont would dominate the market with annual sales of \$50bn, followed by Monsanto at \$100bn.

## Buffett warns of market danger

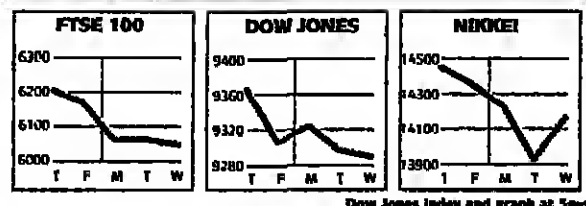


WARREN BUFFETT (left), the legendary investor, has warned that the US stock market has moved into a "dangerous" period where share prices could drop sharply. Mr Buffett, whose investment decisions are followed by legions of small investors world-wide, said: "After a while the very act of stocks going up starts drawing in other people who get excited about the fact that their neighbour made some money. That's when you get into the dangerous periods". In a rare interview with ABC News, the US billionaire said he could not tell precisely when the stock market bubble would burst.

## Disney may build in Hong Kong

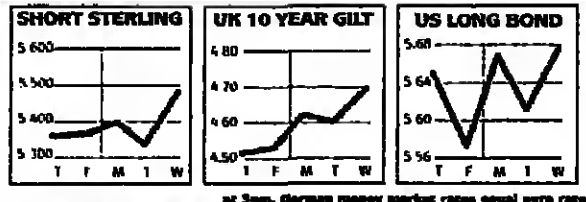
THE HONG KONG government is talking to Walt Disney about building a theme park in the city, it was confirmed yesterday, a move which could help drag the economy out of recession. Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's financial secretary, who announced details of the Disney talks in his annual budget speech, said a decision would be made by the end of June. Ending months of speculation about the project, Mr Tsang said: "I am fully aware of and indeed share the public's excitement at the prospect of seeing Mickey and his friends in Hong Kong."

## STOCK MARKETS



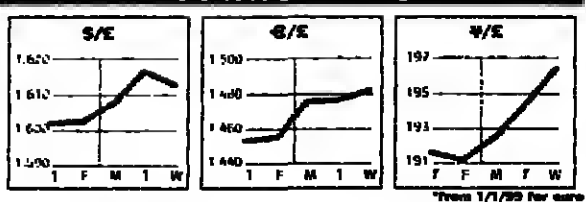
Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6048.30	-13.00	6319.80	4599.20	2.65
FTSE 250	5286.90	9.60	5970.90	4247.60	3.18
FTSE 350	2876.00	-4.40	2978.70	2210.40	2.74
Nikkei	2781.85	-3.65	2886.52	2143.53	2.78
FTSE SmallCap	2282.40	6.20	2793.80	1834.40	3.56
FTSE Europe	1249.00	1.30	1517.10	1046.20	4.43
FTSE Asia	829.90	0.10	1145.90	761.30	1.14
FTSE Europe 100	2758.00	-17.86	3079.27	2018.15	2.16
FTSE Europe 300	1201.28	-7.96	1332.07	880.63	2.02
Dow Jones	9290.55	-1.63	9647.96	7400.30	1.67
Nikkei	2781.85	-3.65	2886.52	2143.53	2.78
Hong Kong	4697.67	-106.35	5217.83	3833.71	1.97
Dax	1225.92	0.50	1283.91	923.32	1.30
S&P 500	2259.95	1.21	2533.44	1357.09	0.29
Toronto 300	6194.30	-30.85	7837.70	5320.90	1.72
Brazil Bovespa	9058.21	-12.44	12339.14	4575.69	6.83
Belgium BeX20	3294.41	-9.92	3713.21	2695.72	2.16
Amsterdam Euronext	519.16	-6.93	573.52	428.70	1.58
France CAC 40	4004.16	-44.47	4404.94	3881.21	1.97
Japan Nikkei	2781.85	-3.65	2886.52	2143.53	2.78
Madrid IBSX 35	9707.60	-115.40	11198.90	6889.90	1.80
Irish Overall	5307.90	14.42	5581.70	3732.57	1.55
S. Korea Comp	334.49	0.52	651.95	277.37	0.27
Australia ASX	2889.90	-2.90	3100.00	2386.70	3.21

## INTEREST RATES



Index	8 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year	30 year
UK	5.38	5.38	5.34	5.22	4.70	4.40	4.61	4.42	4.42
US	5.03	5.03	5.00	4.91	4.70	4.40	4.61	4.42	4.42
Japan	0.22	0.22	0.25	0.48	1.75	0.16	2.79	0.27	0.27
Germany	3.11	3.11	3.15	0.61	4.14	0.84	5.10	0.46	0.46

## CURRENCIES



at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm
Dollar	1.6133	0.000	1.6130	0.000	1.6130	0.000	1.6130	0.000	1.6130
Euro	1.4814	+0.005	1.4819	0.000	1.4819	0.000	1.4819	0.000	1.4819
Yen	196.52	+0.19	196.30	0.00	196.30	0.00	196.30	0.00	196.30
₹	102.50	+0.60	102.30	0.00	102.30	0.00	102.30	0.00	102.30

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm
Brent Oil (\$)	10.76	0.13	10.90	0.00	10.90	0.00	10.90	0.00	10.90
Gold (\$)	286.85	0.10	287.85	0.00	287.85	0.00	287.85	0.00	287.85
Silver (\$)	5.35	-0.14	5.50	0.00	5.50	0.00	5.50	0.00	5.50

## TOURIST RATES

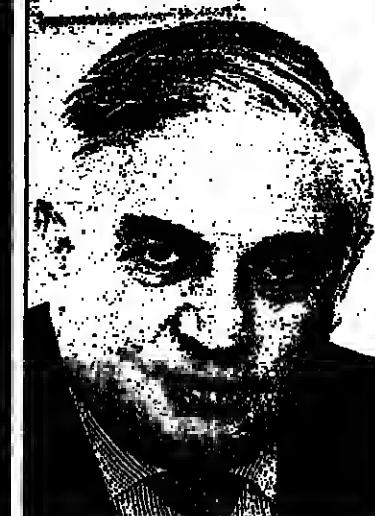
Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4917	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.60	Spain (pesetas)	238.04	Switzerland (francs)	2.2933	Turkey (liras)	554708
Austria (schillings)	19.71	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1595	Sweden (kronor)	13.02	USA (\$)	1.5764		
Belgium (francs)	57.90	New Zealand (\$)	2.9112	Switzerland (francs)	2.2933				
Canada (\$)	2.3886	Norway (kroner)	12.44	Turkey (liras)	554708				
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8282	Portugal (escudos)	286.25						
Denmark (kroner)	10.73	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8903						
Finland (markka)	8.5552	Singapore (\$)	2.6441						
France (francs)	9.4030	South Africa (rand)	9.6191						
Germany (marks)	2.8135	Spain (pesetas)	238.04						
Greece (drachmas)	463.24	Sweden (kronor)	13.02						
Hong Kong (\$)	12.12	Switzerland (francs)	2.2933						
Ireland (pounds)	1.1284	Turkey (liras)	554708						
India (rupees)	61.70	USA (\$)	1.5764						
Israel (shekels)	6.0268								
Italy (lira)	2787								
Japan (yen)	191.22								
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8341								
Malta (lira)	0.6158								



Gavyn Davies, chief international economist



John Thornton, chief operating officer



Peter Sutherland, chairman of Goldman Sachs International



Simon Robertson, president of Goldman Sachs International



Jon Corzine, senior partner and co-chairman

By ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

GOLDMAN SACHS, the Wall Street investment bank, said yesterday that it is to make a renewed attempt to float the business in May.

However, the changed market conditions and the more mixed outlook for investment firms, means the firm is likely to be valued at around \$20-25bn - roughly a third below the levels anticipated when the partners first voted to ditch their partnership status last June.

The decision to go ahead with the initial public offering (IPO) will be formally ratified by the firm's partners at a meeting on Monday with a view to completing the sale of 10-15 per cent of the business to investors.

Insiders say the partners are determined not to repeat the fiasco last autumn when the IPO was pulled at the last minute in the wake of the stock market collapse. They have structured the deal so that it can still go ahead even if share values fall.

The revival of Goldman's plan for an IPO follows a strong rebound in financial markets after the turmoil which led the firm to withdraw its original flotation plan last October.

The prospectus, which is expected to be filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission before the end of this month, will at least partially lift the veil of secrecy concerning the personal fortunes of the firm's 345 partners - the charmed circle of senior employees and ex-employees who own the majority of the 130-year-old firm.

Mr Bates, who is due to be delivered to the Chancellor before next week's Budget.

Mr Bates, who carried out the first review of the PFI shortly after Labour came to power, has been asked to examine how well the PFI has performed, the extent to which it is fully bedded down and what new institutional arrangements should be made when the taskforce reaches the end of its term.

Since Labour took office, a further £4bn worth of public projects have been financed through the PFI, bringing the total value amount of private capital raised to £11bn. The aim is to get a further £3bn worth of projects financed through the PFI in each of the next three years.

- 220 partners are each worth an average of \$45 million
- 16,500 employees - including the tea ladies - will be given shares

In the UK, these include Gavyn Davies, the firm's chief international economist, a close personal friend and former adviser to the Chancellor Gordon Brown, the former head of the World Trade Organisation Peter Sutherland, and Simon Robertson, the former head of Kleinwort Benson.

The float will give the 220 working partners paper worth \$45m on average, although for some of the more senior partners the effective values of their personal holdings will be more than \$100m apiece.

In a statement following a meeting of the firm's management committee yesterday, the co-chairmen Jon Corzine and Henry "Bank" Paulson said: "We have recommended that the firm become a public company to secure permanent capital to grow, to share ownership among our employees and to permit us to use publicly traded securities to finance strategic acquisitions that we may elect to make in the future."

The most immediate beneficiaries of the IPO will be the firm's 16,500 staff who will be offered stock for the first time.

The last major Wall Street firm to go public was Morgan Stanley which came to the market in 1986.

The majority of the equity to be sold will be new shares. Both the partners and the employees will be locked in for three to five years. However, there are two

outside shareholders Sumitomo, the Japanese bank, and the Kamehameha Activities Association, an educational trust founded by the Hawaiian royal family who between them own around 20 per cent of the firm and who have been asked to sell part of the shareholding.

The proceeds of around \$2bn will be used mainly to recapitalise the firm. The 125 limited partners, mostly former employees, will receive both cash and shares while the 220 working partners will receive just shares.

Goldman's financial results for the first quarter of 1999, due out in a fortnight's time, are likely to confirm the strong rebound in the firm's fortunes since the end of last year.

Insiders say the firm will announce earnings before tax and partners' remuneration but before provisions have reached a new record of \$1.16bn, topping the \$1bn notched up in the second quarter last year.

The cancellation of the IPO was a huge embarrassment to the firm. It sparked months of internecine strife which resulted in Jon Corzine, the senior partner who was one of the strongest advocates of the need for the firm to go public, being sidelined in favour of his two most vociferous opponents John Thornton, previously head of the Asian business and John Thain, the firm's chief financial officer.

The two were formally made chief operating officers and have effectively taken over the running of the firm.

Insiders say that following the squabbling that marred the firm last year, the firm is now united behind the new leadership. "The trouble was that before that the IPO was seen within the firm as an end in itself," one insider said yesterday. "Now it is seen as an integral part of the future strategic plans for the firm."

The key difference in the way the IPO is structured this time is that limited partners will no longer be guaranteed a minimum value for their shareholdings. The fact the outside partners were given his guarantee and refused to have it revoked when share prices tumbled last autumn was one of the key reasons why the float had to be pulled.

Goldman partners say the purpose of coming to the market is not primarily to raise cash at this stage. The firm wants to be on an equal footing with publicly-quoted rivals such as Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley, which are able to readily access the equity markets for capital.

The firm also hopes that by offering all employees equity in the firm it will be able to break down the us and them barrier between employees and partners. However, many analysts believe that Goldman's partners are ill-prepared for what life as a publicly-quoted company will be like.

As well as losing some of the mystique that has given Goldman a unique position in investment banking, the firm and its senior executives will find their affairs exposed publicly and subject to scrutiny by analysts and the financial press.

## HOW A HAWAIIAN TRUST SAVED THE BANK

THE LARGEST outside shareholder in Wall Street's most illustrious banking firm is an obscure trust set up by a descendant of the Hawaiian royal family to provide schooling for the island's people.

The trust, named in Goldman's abortive filing last autumn as the Kamehameha Activities Association, acquired its 11 per cent Goldman stake - now worth \$2bn - after ploughing \$500m into the firm when it ran into trouble in 1992.

It was founded in 1884 by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last direct descendant of Hawaii's royal Kamehameha line, as an educational trust.

In the 1980s with its assets now worth billions of dollars, the trust was diversifying madly. It sold its land holdings and started investing in other things.

It is now said to have more than \$10bn of assets and investments in everything from golf clubs to savings and loans - the American equivalent of mortgage banks.

In 1992 when Goldman's hit disaster, the trust came to its aid. Goldman, which was a big player on the bond markets, was badly caught when the US Federal Reserve, America's central bank, unexpectedly raised interest rates sending bond markets reeling.

The firm sustained heavy losses and had to raise fresh capital in a hurry. Unwilling to go to the capital markets which would have forced the firm to reveal to competitors precisely how bad things were, Goldman's cast around for a sympathetic partner from outside Wall Street whose discretion would be assured.

The trust willingly came to its rescue paying \$250m for a stake, followed by another \$250m two years later, emerging with an 11 per cent stake.

The experience was a deeply humiliating one for Goldman's partners and was crucial in convincing Jon Corzine that the firm had to go public, and do so from a position of strength.

— Andrew Garfield

## PFI head to quit as scheme is reworked

THE HEAD of the Government's Private Finance Initiative is set to quit this summer as part of an overhaul of the way the scheme is run within Whitehall, writes Michael Harrison.

Adrian Montague, who is in charge of the Treasury's PFI Taskforce, had been canvassed about staying on for a further year. But he is thought to have decided to leave when his two-year contract expires in August.

His departure would leave a question mark hanging over the future of the entire taskforce. Its other 10 members, all drawn from private industry and finance, are also on two-year contracts which end this summer.

A wide-ranging review of the PFI conducted by the chairman of Pearl Group, Sir Malcolm Bates, is due to be delivered to the Chancellor before next week's Budget.

Mr Bates, who carried out the first review of the PFI shortly after Labour came to power, has been asked to examine how well the PFI has performed, the extent to which it is fully bedded down and what new institutional arrangements should be made when the taskforce reaches the end of its term.

Since Labour took office, a further £4bn worth of public projects have been financed through the PFI, bringing the total value amount of private capital raised to £11bn. The aim is to get a further £3bn worth of projects financed through the PFI in each of the next three years.

Shares ended slightly lower amid a muted reaction to the Bank of England's decision to leave interest rates unchanged. The move had been widely predicted and the FTSE-100 only lost 13 points to close at 6048.3. The blue-chip index was in positive territory for most of the day but was hit by a bout of late selling prompted by Wall Street's shaky start. The smaller indices fared better, with the FTSE-250 ending 9.6 higher at 5286.9 and the Small Cap rising 6.2 to 2282.5.

Market Report, page 21

## Pound rises as rates held

THE BANK of England's decision to leave interest rates unchanged at 5.5 per cent yesterday left industry disappointed as the pound climbed to a new high against the euro.

Employers' organisations and unions renewed their calls for further rate cuts. Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "Exporters are struggling with a stubbornly strong pound."

Ian Peters, deputy director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, described the Bank's inaction as a "bitter pill for manufacturers".

Earlier in the day, the MSF union demonstrated outside the Bank with a giant aspirin. Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, had been criticised for saying earlier in the week that

a painkiller was all he could offer businesses struggling with the strong pound.

The pound jumped after yesterday's decision, hitting another record high against the euro. It closed at a new record of 67.48p, off earlier highs of 67.19p.

On the stock market, the FTSE gave up all its earlier gains following the Bank's decision, ending the day down 13 points at 6,048.3.

Privately, some of the business lobby groups admitted that it was not surprising the Bank had left rates unchanged after five cuts in the preceding five months, and with the Budget just a few days away. The Monetary Policy Committee was briefed this week on the outlines of the

Budget by Treasury officials. Most City analysts said rates were likely to fall again later in the spring. Ken Wattret at Paribas said: "We do not see this as the end of the easing cycle, more a pause for breath."

Major mortgage providers such as Halifax left rates unchanged following yesterday's Bank of England decision.

Recent figures have suggested that although the UK economy remains weak, it is no longer slowing rapidly.

Yesterday, the CBI reported signs of optimism on the high street in its monthly distributive trades survey. Sales volumes were flat in February, according to the CBI, and are expected to rise in March.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, said: "Retailers appear

to be a little more confident about short-term business prospects compared with the record falls in optimism seen in the second half of 1998."

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said activity in the service sector had fallen for the fourth month running in February, but the pace of decline was less rapid. Its activity index climbed to 48.4 from 48.2 in January. The amount of new business also fell less than the previous month.

Peter Thomson, CIPS director general, said: "The UK service sector is entering calmer waters."

Neither survey is considered by economists to have a strong record of tracking official data, but the slightly more upbeat message yesterday tied in with other recent news.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

## LONDON

SHARES ended slightly lower amid a muted reaction to the Bank of England's decision to leave interest rates unchanged. The move had been widely predicted and the FTSE-100 only lost 13 points to close at 6048.3. The blue-chip index was in positive territory for most of the day but was hit by a bout of late selling prompted by Wall Street's shaky start. The smaller indices fared better, with the FTSE-250 ending 9.6 higher at 5286.9 and the Small Cap rising 6.2 to 2282.5.

## NEW YORK

STOCKS were mixed, and bonds fell, amid concerns of a rise in US interest rates and a slowdown in corporate earnings. By early afternoon, the Dow Jones was off its lows, trading up 11.68 points at 9309.29. The Nasdaq Composite Index was 4.68 points higher at 2263.72.

The International Monetary Fund said it would revise up estimates of US growth in its next set of forecasts, underlining fears that the economy is growing too fast.

## TOKYO

STOCKS more than recouped Tuesday's losses, with investors cheered by the strength of the dollar and a slide in Japanese interest rates. The yen fell to more than 121 per dollar after the Bank of Japan added 400 billion yen (\$3.32bn) to its banking system, pushing the overnight loan rate between banks to 0.02 per cent. The Nikkei 225 index closed up 249.30 points, or 1.79 per cent, at 14,170.36, with talk of restructuring at some of Japan's biggest companies - such as Nissan - helping sentiment.

## HONG KONG

NEWS of government plans to sell off part of its large stock portfolio hit Hong Kong shares, which gave up early gains to close only marginally higher.

The Hang Seng ended up 8.82 points at 9,922.40, after Donald Tsang, the financial secretary, said in his budget speech that the government would cut back its substantial stock holdings. Other parts of the budget received a better reception from analysts, who were reassured by relatively upbeat economic forecasts.

## FRANKFURT

SHARES fell almost 3 per cent amid uncertainties over domestic tax reform. The Xetra Dax index closed down 129.32 points at 4,668.52, with recent threats by German companies to relocate elsewhere in protest at proposed tax reform weighing on sentiment.



# Getting it right second time around

IF AT FIRST you don't succeed... Goldman Sachs is returning for a second stab at stock market flotation less than five months after its first attempt went belly-up. The speed with which the American investment bank has been able to dust off its plans in part reflects the remarkable recovery in equity markets which has occurred since then - not to mention the bank's own profits, which are said to have soared to a record \$1.6bn in the first quarter.

But as those who are involved in the IPO are keen to stress, this is not about trying to hit the top of the market. If there's a stock market correction similar to the one that sank the float last time round, so be it. The float will still go ahead anyway. Only Armageddon will derail it this time round.

So what's changed? Most Goldman Sachs partners have become united in their belief that the way forward for the firm is through a public flotation - that if they remain a partnership they'll eventually become uncompetitive. Never mind the way it will enrich working and retired partners, flotation brings four basic advantages.

The first is that it will allow the capital structure and makes it immune to the process of erosion that occurs in a partnership. Second, it allows the firm to cascade ownership rights through all employees, rather than confining them to a narrow group of partners. This brings a third, related advantage. It allows Goldman to pay its staff in shares.

Most American and European investment banks pay some proportion of staff remuneration in shares. If this path is blocked, as it is at Goldman Sachs, then the money has to be made up in other ways - mainly cash. In a high-earning people business like investment banking, this in turn can make the cost base uncompetitive. Fourth, and possibly most important, Goldman reckons it needs a currency with which to compete in the acquisition market.

All these rationales were true first time round, of course, but many partners appeared less convinced of them then. As a consequence they needed to be assured of the value of the float with the promise of real money - that their shareholdings would be worth a certain minimum amount as a result of the IPO. As the market plunged, it became impossible to deliver on those promises.

Goldman does not intend to repeat these mistakes. This time round, there will be no such guarantees. Partners are being asked to accept that the shares will be worth whatever the market values them at. This may seem a somewhat arcane difference, but it is none the less an important one, because it indicates that the firm is much more wholeheartedly behind the idea of a float than it was when the first attempt was made.

Even so, this is a big leap for Goldman Sachs, as indeed it is for equity markets. It's been a boom year for deals, so fee income accounts for a big chunk of earnings right now. None the less, profit from proprietary trading still dominates. It will be interesting to see what ordinary investors make of the flotation of what is, in effect, the world's largest hedge fund.



OUTLOOK

Wainhomes

ANOTHER DAY and another small-cap company turns its back on the stock market. Bill Ainscough is taking Wainhomes private with the help of Royal Bank of Scotland, leaving behind the now familiar trail of complaints about short-termism, illiquid stocks and inability to raise capital.

In Mr Ainscough's case, however, there is a kicker, and a big one at that. As part of the buy-out deal, his share of the company will rise from 23 per cent to 71 per cent because of the way BoS is loading the business up with debt.

After servicing that debt - now a much cheaper business because of the fall in long-term interest rates - Mr Ainscough will be left with a 25m share of profits each year, assuming the company keeps up its present level of earnings. In these days of full disclosure and corporate correctness, that is the kind of take-home pay he could only have dreamt of had Wainhomes kept its public quote.

Given that life as a quoted company brought with it all the tiresome obligations of a listing and none of the advantages - which are principally access to capital - the choice must have been an easy one.

The example of Wainhomes highlights a wider trend. Smaller companies are starting to leave the market in their droves. Some of the blame for this phenomenon lies with the big investment institutions, who have turned against smaller companies like Wainhomes, which in turn makes their shares underperform, which in turn deters people from buying them.

A vicious circle rules which is preventing the small companies of today becoming the big ones of tomorrow and it is a serious problem. In a report published today, Brian Basham and Craig Pickering of Equity Development suggest a solution - provide individual investors with the same tax breaks as the big institutions.

more liquid, making it easier to raise capital, while the investors themselves would be helped to build up a pension pot ready for retirement.

Gordon Brown has hinted that next week's Budget will contain a sprinkling of measures to boost enterprise. But this may be a tax break too far for the Chancellor.

Psion doubts

THE FAST LANE of the information superhighway is an uncomfortable place, as David Potter of Psion is finding out. Whereas palmtop computers were once just glorified electronic organisers, the advent of new mobile phone technology capable of carrying data at high speeds means they are about to change out of all recognition.

Eventually they might even take over from the personal computer as the main way in which people access the Internet, send and receive e-mail, and buy goods online. These devices will take all kinds of forms, from mini-laptop computers to intelligent wrist watches. And they'll be in the shops from this Christmas.

David Potter, Psion's chairman, addressed these changes last summer when he injected EPOC - the operating system software developed by Psion - into a joint venture with the world's three largest mobile phone manufacturers. The question he faces now is what to do with the rest of the business.

Larger, more aggressive manufacturers are muscling in on his markets, and it is doubtful that Psion can remain in the vanguard of conventional palm computers for much longer. Mr Potter yesterday attempted to shift the emphasis by talking about solutions rather than just boxes.

The details are still vague, but over the next year Psion is aiming to form a series of alliances to offer e-mail and e-commerce solutions. It is also likely to concentrate on selling more handsets to businesses as part of a computing package.

All this makes sense. The question is whether Psion can move out of its traditional business while retaining a distinctive edge over larger rivals. Mr Potter has so far successfully managed to steer Psion through these rapidly changing markets. The youthful David Levin, who has just taken over from Mr Potter as chief executive, will have his work cut out producing

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## IN BRIEF

### Ladbroke warns of lower margins

LADBROKE, the hotels and gaming group, has warned of lower than expected margins at its UK betting chain, though overall trading is satisfactory, the company said. Ladbroke blamed poor weather at sporting events for the downturn at its bookmakers.

Ladbroke reported underlying full-year profits up 23 per cent at £276.9m. This was in line with indications given when it unveiled a £1.2bn agreed bid for Stakis last month. Ladbroke posted its offer document yesterday.

### Mirror move

Trinity, the regional newspaper publisher, took another step towards launching a formal bid for Mirror Group when it asked the Department of Trade and Industry to refer its interest in the national newspaper group to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The move is likely to trigger an MMC inquiry which could last approximately three months. Regional Independent Media, a rival bidder, is likely to follow Trinity's example in the next few days.

### Digital link-up

OnDigital, the digital broadcaster jointly owned by Carlton and Granada, linked up with SDN, the rival consortium, to provide pay-per-view sports and movies to OnDigital viewers. The service, to be launched later this year, will offer five channels of pay-per-view on the digital multiplex owned by SDN, which is jointly owned by media groups NTL, S4C and United News and Media.



Mark & Spencer's shares were hit yesterday by the gloomy statement from its supplier, William Baird, which said the retail chain still has too much stock

## Baird warns more factories may close

WILLIAM BAIRD, the Marks & Spencer clothing supplier which closed five of its M&S factories last year, warned of further closures yesterday as Marks & Spencer struggles to address its problems. William Baird supplies M&S with ladieswear, menswear and childrenswear, and the retail giant accounts for 40 per cent of its output. Even after last year's closures it still has 18 factories dedicated to M&S employing 6,000 people.

But Baird's chief executive, David Suddens, reporting a slump in profits after two warnings last year, said a double whammy of falling orders from M&S and a squeeze on prices meant more closures were likely. "There are bound to be further reductions this year," he said.

He added: "Business at the moment is very tough and M&S still has too much stock in its pipeline. Orders from them are down by 10 per cent year-on-year." William Baird is shifting more of its production to cheaper areas such as Sri Lanka and Turkey in an attempt to reduce costs as M&S tries to make its prices more competitive. The gloomy statement hit M&S shares, pushing them 14.75p lower to 380.25p. Nick Bubb, retail analyst at SG Securities, said: "This seems to give strength to market rumours indicating that M&S may have experienced bad clothing sales in February, which otherwise looks like a rather good month."

## Chief executive gains £4.5m from buyout

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE of a housebuilding company is expected to boost his income to more than £4.5m a year by taking his company private and increasing his equity stake to 71 per cent, writes Andrew Verity. Bill Ainscough, who currently has a 23 per cent stake

in Wainhomes, will benefit from an £88m buyout of the company backed by Uberior, an investment division of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Analysts estimate that Wainhomes will pay a maximum of £8m a year to service the debt used to finance the buyout, leaving shareholders with earnings of over £6m.

Analysts said Mr Ainscough was making a virtue of the stockmarket's undervaluation of housebuilding companies. "It's a superb deal for Bill Ainscough and it reflects the market's stupidity about house-

## Schroders beats forecasts despite autumn turmoil

SCHRODERS, the City investment bank, yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to remaining independent as it shrugged off last autumn's turmoil in financial markets to report profits ahead of expectations last year.

By ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

Stanley in the UK merger and acquisition tables last year. There were, however, signs of pressure on the asset management side, where profits fell from £154m to £147m last year. The deputy chairman, Peter Sedgwick, said: "We are pleased that, despite the strength of the American competition, we can maintain our position as the leading British-based investment bank."

The total dividend for the year was also up by 8 per cent at 16.5p, reflecting the firm's more upbeat outlook for the year ahead. Schroders said that, having taken action to tackle the prob-

lems in Asia, and with more than 100 per cent of non-performing loans now provisioned, further bad debt provisions were unlikely this year.

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Sun 10am-4pm  
Offers end 11th March



Fund	12/98	11/98	10/98	9/98	8/98	7/98	6/98	5/98	4/98	3/98	2/98	1/98	12/97	11/97	10/97	9/97	8/97	7/97	6/97	5/97	4/97	3/97	2/97	1/97	12/96	11/96	10/96	9/96	8/96	7/96	6/96	5/96	4/96	3/96	2/96	1/96	12/95	11/95	10/95	9/95	8/95	7/95	6/95	5/95	4/95	3/95	2/95	1/95	12/94	11/94	10/94	9/94	8/94	7/94	6/94	5/94	4/94	3/94	2/94	1/94	12/93	11/93	10/93	9/93	8/93	7/93	6/93	5/93	4/93	3/93	2/93	1/93	12/92	11/92	10/92	9/92	8/92	7/92	6/92	5/92	4/92	3/92	2/92	1/92	12/91	11/91	10/91	9/91	8/91	7/91	6/91	5/91	4/91	3/91	2/91	1/91	12/90	11/90	10/90	9/90	8/90	7/90	6/90	5/90	4/90	3/90	2/90	1/90	12/89	11/89	10/89	9/89	8/89	7/89	6/89	5/89	4/89	3/89	2/89	1/89	12/88	11/88	10/88	9/88	8/88	7/88	6/88	5/88	4/88	3/88	2/88	1/88	12/87	11/87	10/87	9/87	8/87	7/87	6/87	5/87	4/87	3/87	2/87	1/87	12/86	11/86	10/86	9/86	8/86	7/86	6/86	5/86	4/86	3/86	2/86	1/86	12/85	11/85	10/85	9/85	8/85	7/85	6/85	5/85	4/85	3/85	2/85	1/85	12/84	11/84	10/84	9/84	8/84	7/84	6/84	5/84	4/84	3/84	2/84	1/84	12/83	11/83	10/83	9/83	8/83	7/83	6/83	5/83	4/83	3/83	2/83	1/83	12/82	11/82	10/82	9/82	8/82	7/82	6/82	5/82	4/82	3/82	2/82	1/82	12/81	11/81	10/81	9/81	8/81	7/81	6/81	5/81	4/81	3/81	2/81	1/81	12/80	11/80	10/80	9/80	8/80	7/80	6/80	5/80	4/80	3/80	2/80	1/80	12/79	11/79	10/79	9/79	8/79	7/79	6/79	5/79	4/79	3/79	2/79	1/79	12/78	11/78	10/78	9/78	8/78	7/78	6/78	5/78	4/78	3/78	2/78	1/78	12/77	11/77	10/77	9/77	8/77	7/77	6/77	5/77	4/77	3/77	2/77	1/77	12/76	11/76	10/76	9/76	8/76	7/76	6/76	5/76	4/76	3/76	2/76	1/76	12/75	11/75	10/75	9/75	8/75	7/75	6/75	5/75	4/75	3/75	2/75	1/75	12/74	11/74	10/74	9/74	8/74	7/74	6/74	5/74	4/74	3/74	2/74	1/74	12/73	11/73	10/73	9/73	8/73	7/73	6/73	5/73	4/73	3/73	2/73	1/73	12/72	11/72	10/72	9/72	8/72	7/72	6/72	5/72	4/72	3/72	2/72	1/72	12/71	11/71	10/71	9/71	8/71	7/71	6/71	5/71	4/71	3/71	2/71	1/71	12/70	11/70	10/70	9/70	8/70	7/70	6/70	5/70	4/70	3/70	2/70	1/70	12/69	11/69	10/69	9/69	8/69	7/69	6/69	5/69	4/69	3/69	2/69	1/69	12/68	11/68	10/68	9/68	8/68	7/68	6/68	5/68	4/68	3/68	2/68	1/68	12/67	11/67	10/67	9/67	8/67	7/67	6/67	5/67	4/67	3/67	2/67	1/67	12/66	11/66	10/66	9/66	8/66	7/66	6/66	5/66	4/66	3/66	2/66	1/66	12/65	11/65	10/65	9/65	8/65	7/65	6/65	5/65	4/65	3/65	2/65	1/65	12/64	11/64	10/64	9/64	8/64	7/64	6/64	5/64	4/64	3/64	2/64	1/64	12/63	11/63	10/63	9/63	8/63	7/63	6/63	5/63	4/63	3/63	2/63	1/63	12/62	11/62	10/62	9/62	8/62	7/62	6/62	5/62	4/62	3/62	2/62	1/62	12/61	11/61	10/61	9/61	8/61	7/61	6/61	5/61	4/61	3/61	2/61	1/61	12/60	11/60	10/60	9/60	8/60	7/60	6/60	5/60	4/60	3/60	2/60	1/60	12/59	11/59	10/59	9/59	8/59	7/59	6/59	5/59	4/59	3/59	2/59	1/59	12/58	11/58	10/58	9/58	8/58	7/58	6/58	5/58	4/58	3/58	2/58	1/58	12/57	11/57	10/57	9/57	8/57	7/57	6/57	5/57	4/57	3/57	2/57	1/57	12/56	11/56	10/56	9/56	8/56	7/56	6/56	5/56	4/56	3/56	2/56	1/56	12/55	11/55	10/55	9/55	8/55	7/55	6/55	5/55	4/55	3/55	2/55	1/55	12/54	11/54	10/54	9/54	8/54	7/54	6/54	5/54	4/54	3/54	2/54	1/54	12/53	11/53	10/53	9/53	8/53	7/53	6/53	5/53	4/53	3/53	2/53	1/53	12/52	11/52	10/52	9/52	8/52	7/52	6/52	5/52	4/52	3/52	2/52	1/52	12/51	11/51	10/51	9/51	8/51	7/51	6/51	5/51	4/51	3/51	2/51	1/51	12/50	11/50	10/50	9/50	8/50	7/50	6/50	5/50	4/50	3/50	2/50	1/50	12/49	11/49	10/49	9/49	8/49	7/49	6/49	5/49	4/49	3/49	2/49	1/49	12/48	11/48	10/48	9/48	8/48	7/48	6/48	5/48	4/48	3/48	2/48	1/48	12/47	11/47	10/47	9/47	8/47	7/47	6/47	5/47	4/47	3/47	2/47	1/47	12/46	11/46	10/46	9/46	8/46	7/46	6/46	5/46	4/46	3/46	2/46	1/46	12/45	11/45	10/45	9/45	8/45	7/45	6/45	5/45	4/45	3/45	2/45	1/45	12/44	11/44	10/44	9/44	8/44	7/44	6/44	5/44	4/44	3/44	2/44	1/44	12/43	11/43	10/43	9/43	8/43	7/43	6/43	5/43	4/43	3/43	2/43	1/43	12/42	11/42	10/42	9/42	8/42	7/42	6/42	5/42	4/42	3/42	2/42	1/42	12/41	11/41	10/41	9/41	8/41	7/41	6/41	5/41	4/41	3/41	2/41	1/41	12/40	11/40	10/40	9/40	8/40	7/40	6/40	5/40	4/40	3/40	2/40	1/40	12/39	11/39	10/39	9/39	8/39	7/39	6/39	5/39	4/39	3/39	2/39	1/39	12/38	11/38	10/38	9/38	8/38	7/38	6/38	5/38	4/38	3/38	2/38	1/38	12/37	11/37	10/37	9/37	8/37	7/37	6/37	5/37	4/37	3/37	2/37	1/37	12/36	11/36	10/36	9/36	8/36	7/36	6/36	5/36	4/36	3/36	2/36	1/36	12/35	11/35	10/35	9/35	8/35	7/35	6/35	5/35	4/35	3/35	2/35	1/35	12/34	11/34	10/34	9/34	8/34	7/34	6/34	5/34	4/34	3/34	2/34	1/34	12/33	11/33	10/33	9/33	8/33	7/33	6/33	5/33	4/33	3/33	2/33	1/33	12/32	11/32	10/32	9/32	8/32	7/32	6/32	5/32	4/32	3/32	2/32	1/32	12/31	11/31	10/31	9/31	8/31	7/31	6/31	5/31	4/31	3/31	2/31	1/31	12/30	11/30	10/30	9/30	8/30	7/30	6/30	5/30	4/30	3/30	2/30	1/30	12/29	11/29	10/29	9/29	8/29	7/29	6/29	5/29	4/29	3/29	2/29	1/29	12/28	11/28	10/28	9/28	8/28	7/28	6/28	5/28	4/28	3/28	2/28	1/28	12/27	11/27	10/27	9/27	8/27	7/27	6/27	5/27	4/27	3/27	2/27	1/27	12/26	11/26	10/26	9/26	8/26	7/26	6/26	5/26	4/26	3/26	2/26	1/26	12/25	11/25	10/25	9/25	8/25	7/25	6/25	5/25	4/25	3/25	2/25	1/25	12/24	11/24	10/24	9/24	8/24	7/24	6/24	5/24	4/24	3/24	2/24	1/24	12/23	11/23	10/23	9/23	8/23	7/23	6/23	5/23	4/23	3/23	2/23	1/23	12/22	11/22	10/22	9/22	8/22	7/22	6/22	5/22	4/22	3/22	2/22	1/22	12/21	11/21	10/21	9/21	8/21	7/21	6/21	5/21	4/21	3/21	2/21	1/21	12/20	11/20	10/20	9/20	8/20	7/20	6/20	5/20	4/20	3/20	2/20	1/20	12/19	11/19	10/19	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# The European countries living with the wrong rates

IT HAS been quite funny, hasn't it? Just about all the currency forecasters predicted that the euro would be a strong currency. International funds would want euro exposure, the European economy was entering an upswing, and the new European Central Bank would be determined to win its spurs.

When experts agree, they are usually wrong. With hindsight their near-unanimity was a classic sell signal. (The experts were pretty bearish about sterling, too, and look where that got them.) The combination of what may turn out to be a recession in both Germany and Italy and the sniping by the French and German finance ministers at the central bank has driven the currency lower almost every day. It has now lost about 7 per cent of its value since the launch. Maybe those international funds do want exposure in the new currency but they don't mind waiting for the price to come down a bit further.

Funny, yes, but does it really matter? Here the answer is mostly no. Take a look at the graph on the left, which looks at the trade-weighted value of the euro from the beginning of the year together with the performance of the various constituent currencies over the previous three years. As you can see, the fall in the euro over the last two months has really just been continuing a trend estab-



HAMISH MCRAE

*In the fourth quarter of last year Euroland growth stopped, but this disturbing fact conceals large national variations*

lished last autumn. Even if the euro were to fall by another 10 per cent it would still be well within the margins of the last three years, and it remains 20 per cent above its 1990 value.

That said, there are two risks. The first is that the pace at which the euro has been falling could become destabilising. If the movement were to get out of control, the ECB might find itself having to make its next movement of rates up instead of down. That would send a political shock wave through Europe at what would, in economic terms, be a particularly unfortunate time.

The second is that, while a weaker euro at the margin helps European exports, it would also tend to widen the current account imbalance between Euroland and the US. That gap is at the limits of the acceptable - acceptable, that is, to the Americans - and risks stirring up much more serious trade

friction than the current banana war.

Those risks aside, a slightly weaker euro should not be a major concern. But if the external tensions between Euroland and the rest of the world look manageable, the tensions within Euroland look alarming.

You can see two sorts of tension in the other two graphs. In the middle, while the euro zone's overall consumer price inflation has been falling in a satisfactory way, there is a growing divergence between France and Germany on the one hand and Italy on the other.

In France and Germany there is effectively no inflation. At a producer price level, the inflation numbers have gone negative: companies are experiencing deflation, not inflation. At a consumer level, prices going up by a half a per cent or less are probably more than offset by quality improvements. But in Italy there clearly is still

some inflation: indeed over the last 18 months there has been no decline, unlike its two big neighbours.

A different sort of tension is evident in the graph on the right. In the fourth quarter of last year Euroland growth stopped. But this disturbing fact conceals large national variations. The German economy contracted at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent, but France carried on with solid growth, confirming that it was the fastest-growing of the large European economies last year. We don't yet have figures for Italy and Spain but the JP Morgan forecasts in the graph suggest that, while the Spanish economy centred on its fine style, Italy, like Germany, may have gone backwards.

You see the problem. The unbalanced growth within Europe is not, as seemed likely six months ago, between a stagnant core and a fizzy periphery, or between slow-growing large countries and fast-growing small ones. The core is experiencing very different conditions, with two of the big four growing well and two contracting. The problem is not just finding an interest rate that suits Ireland and the Netherlands, but also suits Germany and France. It is worse. The core is split.

There is no way of fine-tuning this. Given time, maybe the monetary authorities could devise administrative schemes

which made credit a bit cheaper or a bit more easily available in the stagnant economies and a bit more expensive or a bit harder to find in the booming ones. This would not be easy and the only intellectual justification would be prudential concerns: for example, the argument that borrowing for home purchase in Ireland should be curbed because the property boom there was in danger at some stage of going into reverse.

It might be possible to adjust structural policies to try to increase or curb demand. But such an approach would take time. Meanwhile, European countries have to live with the wrong interest rates. In the case of Germany, you can even argue that the Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine, may be right - maybe the country should have cheaper money - even if his attempted bullying of the ECB to cut rates is likely to be counter-productive.

This is still very early days for the euro. All the experience of financial markets would caution us more drawing overly firm conclusions from a few weeks trading. The foreign exchanges, like all other financial markets, are dedicated followers of fashion. The fact that the current fashion seems to be slightly different from the one we were told in the brochure to expect should not trouble us. Nevertheless the currency is on trial, and the trial is this: is the Euroland economy flexible enough to cope with a "one-size-fits-all" monetary policy?

Watch, in the weeks ahead, the GDP numbers, not the currency ones. There is a serious danger that large parts of Europe could be struck by the Japanese disease because they, like Japan, have had to cope with an inappropriate monetary policy.

One final thought: two big countries in Euroland have less appropriate interest rates than the UK - or at least that is the evident view of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.



Chancellor Gerhard Schröder could be faced with another U-turn

## Schröder to review tax after business revolt

FACED BY an unprecedented business revolt, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder yesterday sought to placate Germany's leading industrialists by promising to review his government's tax reforms.

A controversial new tax law, which insurance companies say will cost them up to DM13bn (£4.6bn) over the next three years, is nevertheless set to go before the Bundestag today for its final vote. At an emergency meeting at the Chancellery, all Mr Schröder could offer the heads of Germany's biggest insurance companies was a sympathetic ear.

He said the government would examine the new tax law before the end of the year, to see if corrections might be needed. Mr Schröder's gov-

BY IMRE KARACS in Berlin

ernment has made so many U-turns in its short period of office, that another one just to please the insurance lobby would barely be noticed.

The pressure, meanwhile, is increasing. After threatening to take their business to another country, insurance companies warned yesterday that they would stop buying government bonds. According to Germany's insurance federation, several companies already intend to do this to punish the government for damaging their business.

"Individual companies have told us internally that they will not buy German bonds any more," said Siegfried Brock-

mann, spokesman for the federation. Mr Brockmann named no names, but it is assumed that Allianz, Europe's largest insurance company, is entertaining such thoughts. Allianz has been in the forefront of what German media have described as "extra-parliamentary" opposition to the government's economic policies.

It was the chairman of Allianz, Henning Schulte-Noelle, who led yesterday's deputation to the Chancellery - supported by the heads of 22 of Germany's biggest companies - who had also penned a letter of complaint to Mr Schröder.

Mr Schulte-Noelle's argues in today's issue of *Die Zeit* that the cost of the tax reforms to the insurance industry is "completely unacceptable".

## Psion aims for expansion

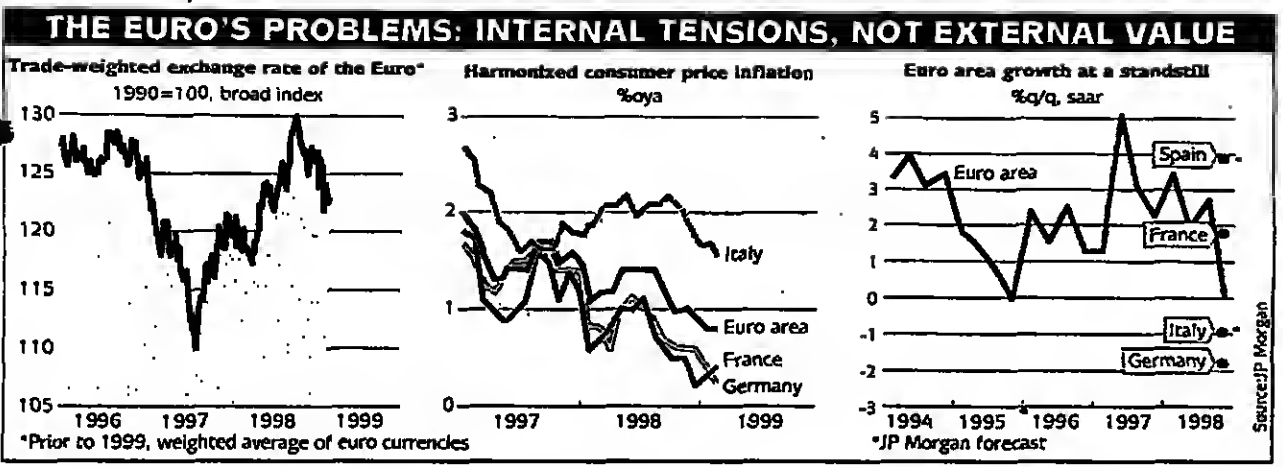
PSION, the handheld computer company, has launched a strategic review which is likely to see it launch a series of acquisitions, strategic partnerships and disposals as it attempts to adjust to the rapidly evolving market for mobile computers, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

David Potter, Psion's chairman, said the company was hoping to use its strong brand name to cash in on the market for wireless data services - the ability to access online services over mobile phone networks.

This means Psion is likely to widen its scope beyond the distinctive pocket computers that have been its mainstay. "Our fundamental interest is not in boxes but in end solutions,"

said David Potter, Psion's chairman, adding that it was likely to form partnerships with existing services companies, as well as making acquisitions.

Psion also hinted that Dacom, the subsidiary making plug-in modems for laptop PCs which has been hit by a switch towards built-in modems, might be sold. Outlook, page 17



THE INDEPENDENT

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Trading fears  
knock M&S

MARKS & SPENCER had a day to forget, as rumours of poor trading and whispers of a dividend cut encouraged a wave of selling.

As most other FTSE 100 stocks kept their cool in the face of the expected no change in rates, Britain's premium retailer struggled, ending 14.7p lower at 380.25p. A deluge of bad news did the damage.

First on the block was the announcement that William Baird, M&S's biggest supplier, had suffered a dip in profits in 1998 and was forecasting a tough first half.

Baird itself shed 4p to 105p, sparking concern about M&S clothes sales. Panicky dealers talked of "negative double-digit" like-for-like sales at the start of the all-important spring season.

One or two brokers added to Marks & Sparks' misery by reawakening the spectre of a dividend cut with the final results, due out in June. On current forecasts of a 14.4p dividend, the payout will only be covered one time and the

NIGEL WRAY, the property and sports tycoon, is about to embark on an unusual venture. Yesterday, he disclosed an 11.4 per cent in Frank Usher, a long-suffering maker of evening dresses. Usher, which closed up 7p to 11.5p, is considering appointing the entrepreneur to the board. Mr Wray who owns the rugby team Saracens and made its fortune in the property world with Trocadero, is not a clothes expert. However, he has an eye for undervalued companies.

Square Mile is starting to fret. Balance sheet worries were compounded when Moody's, the ratings agency, downgraded the retailer's debt. HSBC put the seal on a truly awful session by repeating its "reduce" advice. The stock, which topped 600p in April, has lost over 9 per cent in the last three days as the market view got gloomier and gloomier.

If the trend continues, the title of a recent analysts' note on the new management's restructuring efforts, "It's going to be painful", could be inscribed on M&S' Baker Street headquarters.

The FTSE 100 had a relatively painless day, finishing 13 lower at 6,048.3. The blue chip index shrugged off the Bank of England's decision to keep rates on hold and remained in positive territory for most of the day, thanks to a robust opening on Wall Street.

However, the Dow turned negative, the FTSE 100 followed suit ending with a small deficit. The FTSE 250

MARKET  
REPORTFRANCESCO  
GUERRERA

outdid its bigger brother once again, posting a 9.6 rise to 5,286.9. The Small Cap was also resilient, finishing 6.2 ahead at 2,828.5.

The undercard's bid speculation centred on British Borneo. The oil exploration group, which last year bought rival Hardy, drilled an 8.3 per cent increase to 105p in heavy volume.

The rumour is that a US predator is mulling a hostile bid up to 180p a share to exploit Borneo's depressed price. The stock reached 82p a couple of years ago and has since been hammered by the falling oil price.

Talks of a merger with rival Lasmo also did the rounds as dealers reported aggressive buying from three big brokers. Merrill Lynch, who reiterated its "buy" advice, was said to be

Cazenove. Britannia spoiled the insurers' party with a 97p plunge to 106.5p after a set of mediocre results.

Powergen, figures today, rose an electrifying 24p to 787p amid vague talk that it might buy a second regional electricity company.

Fellow utility Energis, a FTSE 100 candidate, powered 120p ahead to 1,580p after announcing a Northern Ireland telecom joint venture with the local electricity group Viridian, up 24.5p to 733p.

Hays, the services group, benefited from some switching out of rival Rentokil, which on Tuesday failed to meet its earnings target. Predictably, Hays rose 31.75p to 626.5p and Rentokil lost 2.75p to 394.25p. Railtrack was derailed by profit-taking, losing 75p to 1.45p.

Flood traders went sour as the threat of a price war looms large. Tesco was first in the check-out queue with a 5.5p fall to 163p. Sainsbury off-loaded 11p to 55p while Safeway dropped 7.75p to 256p.

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the company that cloned Dolly the Sheep, is near to clinching a key deal for one of its major drugs. The shares soared 9p to 107.5p yesterday amid talk that PPL has found a US partner for its cystic fibrosis drug. The partner, believed to be a large pharmaceutical company, will shoulder a large chunk of the drug's clinical trials, reducing PPL's development costs. The company recently published encouraging results for the drug.

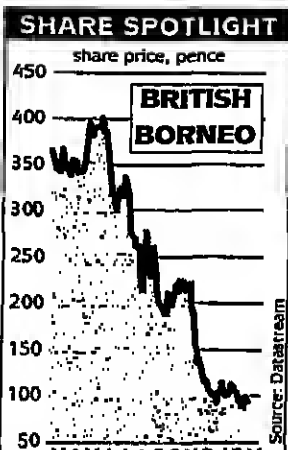
CSFB advised to sell. Morrison, the Northern chain, shed 7.5p to 296.5p. The stores' black day was completed by Arcadia, down 18p to 213p. The broker Kleinwort Benson put a "sell" sign on the Burton offshoot and reduced its forecasts. Merrill Lynch also hopped with talk of a 1m line of shares on offer.

Wales City, the property group, climbed 6.5p to 72.5p. Its major building City Point in the Square Mile is near completion and should add a further 30p to the share price.

Torotrak, the maker of a revolutionary gearbox, roared 26.5p ahead to 130p after pledging to win 80 per cent of General Motors' automatic transmission orders.

Bula Resources, the oil group, was boosted by the appointment of the former Irish prime minister Albert Reynolds as chairman rising 0.25p to 1.25p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 991.2M  
SEAQ TRADES: 76,228  
GILTS INDEX: 112.25 -0.72

SHARE SPOTLIGHT  
BRITISH BORNEO

among them.

Borneo plipped GKN as the best riser in the top 350 companies. The aerospace engineer took off with a 62.5p jump to 910p. Analysts were impressed by the better-than-expected results and confident outlook for this year.

GEC, up 29 to 565p, remained in demand as the market awaits the next acquisition, following this week's purchase of the US telecom group Reltec.

The insurers were having a love-in with the analysts. Royal & Sun, results today, soared 17.5p to 551p as ABN Amro suggested a switch out of Norwich Union, down 0.25p to 451.5p. CGU, up 27.5p to 955.5p, was also on ABN's wish list. Legal & General, up 25p to 774.5p, got the nod from

GKN ready to pounce  
with £1bn warchest

GKN, the automotive, defence and industrial services group, yesterday said it had a £1bn warchest to spend on acquisitions as it met market expectations with a 75 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to a record £707m.

The surge in profits drove GKN shares 7 per cent higher to 910p - close to their all-time high - and was accompanied by a 10.5 per cent increase in the dividend.

The profits increase was largely due to the write-back of a £248m provision to cover a legal action by franchisees in the US which GKN ultimately won. But leaving aside this exceptional item, pre-tax profits still rose 14 per cent to a record £426m, with the services division, Chem-pal, and the waste business Cleanaway, turning in the strongest performance.

CK Chow, chief executive, said that GKN would use its firepower to acquire businesses in three areas - powder metallurgy, aerospace components and off-highway vehicle components. However, he said GKN was under no pressure to follow the lead of the car manufacturers and seek a "mega-merger" with a rival components group because it already had dominant market positions and strong engineering capability.

Organic growth this year will come from expansion of its automotive driveline and Chem-pal's business.

By MICHAEL HARRISON  
Business Editor

pellets business and the Westland order book, which will rise from 29 helicopters this year to 47 next.

Late last year GKN paid £330m for Interlake, a US sinter metals and aerospace group, strengthening its dominant position in the market for precision components for the car and aerospace industries manufactured using powder metallurgy technology.

Mr Chow said GKN expected to achieve £300m sales in sinter metals this year rising to £625m within three years.

GKN is forecasting a 2-3 per cent decline in European car production this year. But Mr Chow said the outlook for the US remained stable, adding that there were opportunities to expand its sales, particularly constant velocity joints, where GKN already has 37 per cent of the world market.

He added that the flotation of General Motors' components arm Delphi would give GKN the opportunity to increase supplies to the world's largest car maker. Ford is planning a similar move with its components arm, Visteon.

Mr Chow forecast more consolidation in the fighting vehicles industry following the merger of

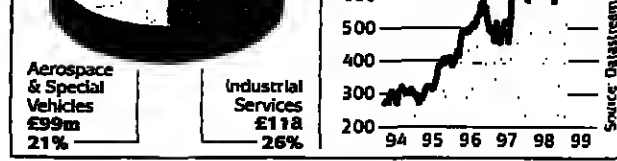
GKN: AT A GLANCE  
Market value: £6.48bn, share price 910p (+62.5p)

Trading record	94	95	96	97	98
Full year to December					
Turnover (£bn)	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.7
Profit for the year (£m)	200	322	93	406	707
Earnings per share (p)	14.2	27	6	39.2	80.2
Dividends per share (p)	10.8	12.0	13.3	14.75	16.3

Operating profit by business

1998	Automotive	Industrial
	£246m	£118m
	53%	26%

Share price



increased by 31 per cent to £118m. Chem-pal has 16 per cent of the market for pellets in Europe and the US - put at 560 million pellets - and is expanding into the Far East, the Nordic countries, and Brazil.

Analysts upgraded their 1999 forecasts on the back of the results. Daniel Bevan of Credit Lyonnais is forecasting profits of £528m putting the shares on a forward earnings multiple of 8.8, still cheap against the market.

## Thistle profits rise cheers investors

THISTLE HOTELS, the four star hotels group that was the subject of a £1.5bn aborted bid from Nomura last year, provided its shareholders with a boost yesterday with a trading update showing a modest increase in revenue growth.

The update came as Thistle reported a 9 per cent increase in full-year profits to £86.6m and a £82.4m return of funds to shareholders, which will be paid as a 17p special dividend in April.

The return of funds to shareholders was expected following an initial £32.6m tranche last year, but the trading update covering the eight weeks since the New Year was better than forecasts after

By NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

a difficult fourth quarter last year.

Ian Burke, the chief executive of Thistle, said: "It's early days but I think there is a bit more confidence around than there was last November."

The news will please Thistle shareholders who saw a sharp rise in Thistle shares evaporate last year after Nomura backed away from a bid.

Brierley Investments, which controls a 46 per cent stake, now says it is committed to staying on board although for how long remains to be seen in this consolidating sector.



Ian Burke: 'There's a bit more confidence around'

Revenue per room was down by an estimated 2 to 3 per cent in the final quarter of last year but in the last eight weeks that has turned

around to a similar level increase.

Management is concentrating on improving its existing portfolio of 60 hotels in the four-star category. Thirty were sold last year and another 10 under the Mount Charlotte name are under review.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson believes that hotel share prices are already discounting a tough year and that consolidation - led by the Ladbroke-Stakis tie-up - could lead to a sector re-rating.

On current year forecasts of £84m the shares - down 4.5p to 136.5p yesterday - trade on a forward multiple of 11. It is too early to be overly bullish, analysts say, but the shares look a decent hold.

## Commanding heights at ABI

MARY FRANCIS has had a glittering career, moving effortlessly from All Souls College, Oxford, to the Treasury to Number Ten to Buckingham Palace. Now she has reached a new pinnacle - the Association of British Insurers (ABI).

The Queen's deputy private secretary is to replace Mark Boleat as director general of the ABI when he departs in June.

Simultaneously, yesterday Mr Boleat announced he was joining Abbey National's life division as a non-executive director.

"I'm having tentative discussions about one or two other non-executive positions, and I want to do some public policy consulting," he says.

"I've been at the ABI for six years and before that the Building Societies Association for seven. It's time to do something different."

PEOPLE AND  
BUSINESS  
BY JOHN  
WILLCOCK

Mr Boleat, who once aspired to be a Tory MP, will feel at home with Abbey National's chairman, Lord Tugendhat, who was Member of Parliament for the City of London and Westminster in the late 1960s.

As for Ms Francis, the insurance industry may be less than impressed with her Treasury background. The insurers usually regard the interfering Whitehall Sir Humphreys as "the enemy".

Mr Boleat disagrees: "I think it [her appointment] will be very warmly received. After all, she had a two-year secondment with Hill Samuel, she spent two years in Washington and she was a special adviser to John Major. She also had a management role at Buckingham Palace."

## Poisoned chalice

THESE MUST be anxious times for Hanna Grodzkiewicz-Waltz, president of the Polish central bank. The "Group of 20 plus 1", a gaggle of continental financial and economic journalists, has just named her "European Banker of the Year 1998".

"They cite her success in holding the zloty steady throughout the turmoil in the financial markets and in helping to ensure that Poland's banking system survived the collapse of the ruble fairly unscathed."

Nice of them to say so. But Ms Grodzkiewicz-Waltz will be less than charmed and hoping the award has not turned into one of those kiss-of-death "young businessmen of the year" prizes.

## Sercio chairman

GEORGE GRAY, 61, is retiring as chairman of Sercio, the outfit that owns the franchise to the Docklands Light Railway, after 35 years with the company. Sercio has recently teamed up with Guy Hands of Nomura to bid for a slice of the London Underground. Sercio was formed by a management buyout in 1987 from RCA, the US recording giant, when the latter was taken over by General Electric. The new firm was valued at £25m when it floated in 1988 against its market value today of £900m.

Richard White takes Mr Gray's place as executive chairman while finance director Kevin Beeson steps into Mr White's shoes as chief executive.

When asked how Mr Gray would be spending his retirement, Mr Beeson said: "He's a non-executive director of Misy's, the IT company. He's also got grandchildren so I'm sure he'll find things to fill his day."

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

## COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS
William Hare (P)	530.5m (228.4m)	15.5m (18.4m)	18.5p (21.4p)
Continuum Group (P)	1,850m (1,721m)	12.63m (12.63m)	12.63p (12.63p)
Continuum International (P)	211.9m (221.4m)	30.8m (30.8m)	30.8p (30.8p)
Continuum (P)	3,700m (3,680m)	27.7m (27.7m)	27.7p (27.7p)
Continuum Group (P)	4,000m (3,960m)	27.7m (27.7m)	27.7p (27.7p)
Giles (P)	8,850m (11,400m)	0.301m (0.458m)	3.51p (8.09p)
Land Rover Group (P)	8,850m (11,400m)	0.301m (0.458m)	3.51p (8.09p)
Land Rover (P)	9,800m (12,500m)	0.301m (0.458m)	3.51p (8.09p)
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## SPORT

Motor racing: Heat on McLaren's Scottish driver as Formula One returns to the grid in Melbourne on Sunday

## Make or break time for Coulthard

By DERICK ALLSOP

FOUR MONTHS on they are ready to resume hostilities, and it is as if nothing happened save for a deep intake of breath. Formula One acknowledges McLaren-Mercedes are out in front and that Ferrari are their only serious challengers.

They could be wrong, but that is unlikely. They know their business and they have watched in trepidation, then dismay, as McLaren redesigned and unleashed their new car.

It looked even better than the 1998 model, which brought the team the constructors' championship and, in the hands of Mika Hakkinen, the drivers' title too.

Stable regulations - apart from a fourth groove on the front tyres - should mean a bunching of the competitors, and the scramble for places in the points may well be more frantic and engaging than last year. All the evidence in pre-season testing, however, suggests McLaren have retained their advantage, and that Ferrari or, more specifically, Michael Schumacher, should be a step ahead of the rest.

The sports promoters anxiously await the opening round of the season, Sunday's Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne, for confirmation that Schumacher, at least, will be capable of pushing McLaren.

For all the German's less acceptable traits, he has enjoyed inferior equipment to the wire these past few championships and provided Formula One with an improbable spectacle to flaunt before its enormous audience.

Hakkinen v Schumacher Part II has global box-office appeal but British consumers would doubtless welcome more prominent roles from their team-mates, David Coulthard and Eddie Irvine respectively. Since Northern Ireland's Irvine is employed as a No 2 and frankly does not rank in the same league as Schumacher it falls to the Scotsman, Coulthard, to bring a little variety to the show.

Whether or not Coulthard has it in him to challenge for the championship has been one of the main discussion points in the build-up to the season.

Last year he was, in football parlance, chasing the game from the moment he honoured an agreement with Hakkinen and slowed to allow the Finn through to win in Melbourne. By the midway stage of the season he had conceded it was not to be his championship and committed his support to Hakkinen's cause.

Coulthard's critics contend he is simply not fast enough. His admirers emphasise his misfortune in the first half of last year when breakdowns sabotaged some of his strongest races, and they remind us that he finished the 1995 season outpacing his team-mate at Williams, Damon Hill, who went on to become champion in 1996, by which time Coulthard had joined McLaren.

That might, of course, say more about Hakkinen's talent than anything else, but it is fair to counter that Coulthard is no slouch. Those prepared to take an objective view suspect his failing so far has been a matter of application rather than ability.

His compliance with the pre-race deal in Australia is cited as proof that he lacks the ruthless instincts of a true winner, a champion in the making. His ready smile, good manners and pleasant demeanour are presented as damning evidence. It



Mika Hakkinen (left) and David Coulthard are determined to keep the drivers' and constructors' trophies in the McLaren camp

is widely supposed he should be meaner, more arrogant, more aggressive, more selfish.

Coulthard defends himself with a pragmatic: "I am what I am." And he adds: "Such talk is ridiculous."

He does acknowledge he has to be more consistent but figures that, since he is not yet 28, he is still learning, still improving. He calculates that Hakkinen, two and a half years his senior, is unlikely to be quicker this season.

There is also a school of thought that Hakkinen, having achieved the sport's ultimate goal, may suffer some reaction; that he might be less motivated, less inclined to make that crucial but risky manoeuvre.

The signs over the past few weeks indicate the contrary, that Hakkinen could be more formidable than ever, buoyed by

self-confidence and fuelled by a new-found pride. He claimed the most significant pre-season prize, beating Schumacher by almost half a second in a test at Barcelona.

Coulthard maintains he is under no additional pressure this season, but time is not on his side. Others, even those prepared to take the objective view, sense his patience may be misplaced. Unless he produces the genuine championship challenge he aspires to be could be seeking another team at the end of the season, and that most assuredly does amount to additional pressure.

Over the course of the past couple of years McLaren have approached Hill and made offers to Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve, a strange kind of endorsement of their faith in Coulthard. He will ignore the warnings at his peril.

Hill, beginning his second season with Jordan, ought to find himself embroiled in the fight expected to rage behind the main event. His victory in the Belgian Grand Prix, ahead of his then team-mate Ralf Schumacher, propelled the team to fourth place in last year's constructors' championship.

If they are to go one better they must overcome Ralf Schumacher's new team, Williams, a tough but not impossible mission. Williams are using Renault customer engines for a final year before joining forces with BMW and have to acquaint themselves with not only the younger Schumacher but also with Alessandro Zanardi, the Italian returning to Formula One with two Champ Car titles on his CV.

Frank Williams has admitted the team's tumble from the

top of the pile last season was a "humiliating" experience and they will be pushed further down the order only with great difficulty.

Benetton held third place in the early stages of last season but faded badly. They parted company with their team principal, David Richards, and finished the year a timid fifth. This is a big championship for the team and their much vaunted young drivers, Giancarlo Fisichella and Alexander Wurz.

Stewart-Ford are another team required to improve their performance this season. To that end they have reorganised the team structure, brought in Johnny Herbert to partner Rubens Barrichello, and developed what should be a more competitive, car-engine package.

Jackie Stewart's team will do well to top the "second division",

company that Formula One's newest entrants, British American Racing, vow to leapfrog at the first attempt.

A team that can sign the former champion, Villeneuve, should not be taken lightly. However, more seasoned hands at this game warn them the road ahead is more demanding than they appear to have bargained for, and they may learn a little humility the hard way.

If nothing else, BAR have managed to stir a few emotions during the dark months of inactivity, and that global audience will be hoping for more attacks on their senses through the season proper.

A stern defence of the title by Hakkinen seems inevitable, while Schumacher can be relied upon to demonstrate his genius. The onus is on Coulthard to provide a new twist to the tale.

## STARTING GRID FOR 1999



**McLAREN**  
Mika Hakkinen, Finland, age 30  
GPs 112, wins 33, championships 1.  
David Coulthard, Britain, age 27  
GPs 74, wins 4, championships 0.  
Double champions last season after seven barren years and they have been bold in their determination to retain the titles, producing an all-new car when they might have opted for a safer strategy. Hakkinen has proved himself, now Coulthard is challenged to do the same.



**FERRARI**  
Michael Schumacher, Germany, 30  
GPs 118, wins 33, championships 2.  
Eddie Irvine, Northern Ireland, 33  
GPs 81, wins 0, championships 0.  
Under ever more intense pressure to deliver the drivers' crown, Schumacher, acknowledged as the world's best driver, has endured three seasons without winning the championship and cannot relish the prospect of another near miss. Should he close, but the car may still not be as good as the McLaren.



**WILLIAMS**  
Alessandro Zanardi, Italy, 32  
GPs 25, wins 0, championships 0.  
Ralf Schumacher, Germany, 23  
GPs 33, wins 0, championships 0.  
The most successful championship competitors in Formula One slipped to third in the constructors' standings last season and will be anxious to regroup this time. The all-new driver line-up has been described as a gamble but it could be one of the most intriguing.



**JORDAN**  
Damon Hill, Britain, 38  
GPs 99, wins 22, championships 1.  
Heinz-Harald Frentzen, Germany, 31  
GPs 81, wins 1, championships 0.  
Recovered from a desperate first half of last season to register their maiden grand prix win and finish a best-ever fourth in the constructors' championship. Hill was rejuvenated in the process and is on the trail of more wins as the team aim for third place.



**BENETTON**  
Giancarlo Fisichella, Italy, 26  
GPs 41, wins 0, championships 0.  
Alexander Wurz, Austria, 25  
GPs 19, wins 0, championships 0.  
Never really recovered from the loss of their only champion, Michael Schumacher, at the end of 1995 and upstaged by Jordan last season, they look for new direction from Rocco Benetton. Car said to be much improved, so their drivers will be required to fulfil some of their promise.

**SAUBER**  
Jean Alesi, France, 34  
GPs 151, wins 1, championships 0.  
Pedro Diniz, Brazil, 28  
GPs 66, wins 0, championships 0.  
Still looking for promotion from the "second division" and no obvious prospects of doing so.

**ARROWS**  
Taranosuke Takagi, Japan, 25  
GPs 16, wins 0, championships 0.  
Pedro de la Rosa, Spain, 28  
GPs 0, wins 0, championships 0.  
Changes on and off the track and still uncertainties persist. Not the most auspicious preparation.

**STEWART**  
Rubens Barrichello, Brazil, 26  
GPs 97, wins 0, championships 0.  
Johnny Herbert, Britain, 34  
GPs 129, wins 2, championships 0.  
Better prepared for this season than last and seeking to justify Ford's continued faith.

**PROST**  
Olivier Panis, France, 32  
GPs 75, wins 1, championships 0.  
Jarno Trulli, Italy, 26  
GPs 29, wins 0, championships 0.  
Must do better after scoring one point last season - Peugeot and all France demand it.

**MINARDI**  
Marc Gené, Spain, 24  
GPs 0, wins 0, championships 0.  
Lucio Badoer, Italy, 28  
GPs 35, wins 0, championships 0.  
Traditional wooden specialists still pursuing the dream. Reality could be hard going again.

**BRITISH AMERICAN RACING**  
Jacques Villeneuve, Canada, 27  
GPs 49, wins 11, championships 1.  
Ricardo Zonta, Brazil, 22  
GPs 0, wins 0, championships 0.  
Big money, big ambition, big names, big noise. The bigger they come...

GRAND PRIX DATES			
7 March	Australia	(Melbourne)	
11 April	Brazil	(Interlagos)	
2 May	San Marino	(Imola)	
16 May	Monaco	(Monte Carlo)	
30 May	Spain	(Barcelona)	
13 June	Canada	(Montreal)	
27 June	France	(Magny-Cours)	
11 July	Britain	(Silverstone)	
25 July	Austria	(Zeltweg)	
1 August	Germany	(Hockenheim)	
15 August	Hungary	(Budapest)	
29 August	Belgium	(Spa-Francorchamps)	
12 September	Italy	(Monza)	
26 September	Europe	(Nürburgring)	
17 October	Malaysia	(Sepang)	
31 October	Japan	(Suzuka)	

## Dennis defends McLaren's strategy

THE McLAREN chief, Ron Dennis, has refused to rule out another arranged finish in Sunday's Australian Grand Prix here.

McLaren caused uproar in the corresponding race last season when team orders forced David Coulthard to allow his team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, to pass him two laps from home. It prompted calls for the sport's governing body to clamp down to avoid similar situations arising in the future.

But Dennis insists team orders exist in every grand prix and the tactics will continue.

By RUSSELL BENNETT  
in Melbourne

"There is not a grand prix that we contest that doesn't take place under team orders," Dennis said.

"It's been the case since I took over at McLaren in the early 1980s and will continue to be the case. The competition is closer - but if we find ourselves with a perfect advantage then we would undoubtedly use that advantage to ensure we win the race."

"What happened in Australia last year was difficult for a lot

of people to understand. If you consider yourself part of a football team or an ice hockey team you can understand."

"But they will be racing as hard against each other as they have been in past years and through all of last season."

Dennis said that neither Scotland's Coulthard nor the Finn Hakkinen, the world champion, would have an advantage in the set-up of their respective cars this season.

He said the drivers would be treated as equals, but there were times where the team had to take precedence over the

drivers, though those times were "few and far between." Coulthard echoed Dennis' remarks yesterday, emphasising the team aspect of Formula One, even though McLaren's orders last year outraged motor sport enthusiasts who felt cheated by the arranged finish.

"We're out there trying to develop the car together and work as closely as possible," he said. "That's where I expect help from Mika and he expects help from me, in developing the car."

Coulthard has scoffed at claims that he lacks the men-

tal toughness to be crowned Formula One world champion. Coulthard insisted as he prepared for Sunday's race that he was as committed as any of his rivals.

"Just because I don't walk around the paddock talking like a boxer, saying 'I'm going to knock you out', does not mean my determination to succeed is not there," he said.

"There have been champions in the past who people could have said had an arrogant attitude while there were those who were easy-going. I do not think you should confuse the two."

Coulthard was responding to claims by Patrick Head, the technical director of his former Team Williams, that he needed to add an arrogant streak if he wanted to beat the likes of Michael Schumacher.

His former team-mate Damon Hill has also said Coulthard needed to be more selfish if he wanted to challenge for the title. But the 27-year-old is confident that he will mount a sustained bid this campaign after finishing third behind his team-mate Hakkinen and Schumacher last year with one win.

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# League ahead of union in most departments

IT DOESN'T take customary attention to this week's renewal of activity in the Five Nations' Championship to remind us that a wider interest in rugby union is provided only by international fixtures.

Attendance at club matches since the game's blind leap into professionalism makes a nonsense of the belief that there was a bigger audience out there. "Never was, never will be," Cliff Morgan said recently.

Bearing this in mind, some questions could be put the other night to Maurice Lindsay, the managing director of Super League (Europe), who is convinced that the 13-a-side code in this country will be taking a big step forward when a new season gets under way with tomorrow's



KEN JONES

televised match between Wigan and Leeds.

If Lindsay's optimism is not shared by everyone in rugby league it bubbles merrily along. "This season is set to be the best ever," he

said at a gathering of scribes, coaches and players in Cheshire. "We're looking at record season ticket sales and we expect to break the one million attendance barrier."

I have deliberately refrained from specifically setting out the future Lindsay imagines for Super League but rather let off a volley of his gunfire in the hope that through the clearing smoke you could picture it for yourselves: a thriving game expanded beyond its heartland and gaining more national recognition.

Of course, nobody in their right mind supposes that even a booming Super League could think about going up against football. "It would be daft to even think about it," the Salford coach and former Wigan

hero said. "At Salford we live in the shadow of Manchester United and Manchester City. Old Trafford is sold out for every home match and even now City are in the Second Division they get crowds upwards of 25,000."

With nothing to fear in the north from rugby union ("In any case, almost everywhere you look they appear to be making a mess of things," somebody said in the early hours of yesterday), Super League must be wary of the challenge for an audience coming from basketball and ice hockey.

From a number of conversations you could sense that not everyone connected with Super League is convinced that they are being led down the right road. "It's

always been the dream of rugby league to be recognised nationally for more than just the Challenge Cup final at Wembley but I'm not sure that we shouldn't be concentrating more on our traditional support," I was told.

A clever man, Lindsay did not dismiss the thought lightly. "I see it as a sound enough argument," he said, "but I'm convinced that Super League can grow. Time will tell but the signs are more than just encouraging."

With the sponsorship of JJB, and Sky as its broadcasting partner, Super League has been able to provide the 14 clubs, including the newly launched Gateshead Thunder, with about £900,000 for develop-

ment. Hardly Premier League financing but enough, many think, to ensure a more evenly balanced competition.

Nowhere is regional pride so jealously upheld as around the M62 corridor, so objections to the changes brought by Super League, including the wholesale adoption of absurd team titles, were inevitable. Some self-appointed defenders of the faith were so appalled by the marketing emphasis that anyone who held positive thoughts about Super League was branded a traitor to tradition. One thing for sure, however, is that rugby league, with its long history of professionalism, can teach rugby union clubs plenty about budgeting.

By remarking on things in the company of people who know what they are talking about you can often get close to the truth and a good idea of the lines on which they are thinking.

This quite tricky manoeuvre paid off again on Tuesday, bringing the impression that a number in rugby league are far from sure that the future will shape up to everyone's satisfaction.

However, the ongoing development of Super League should make a fundamental difference between union and league fairly obvious. Super League is about clubs. International matches apart, what is union left with? By the sound of things, trouble.

## Jackson heads pursuit of gold

British athletes aim to keep up good work in World Indoor Championships in Maebashi. By Mike Rowbottom

LAST YEAR'S medal-rich performances by British athletes provided the domestic sport with all the right kinds of publicity after the trauma of the British Athletic Federation's financial collapse.

This year and next, when the major championships are all global, gold will take more diligent prospecting - a fact which Max Jones, performance director of UK Athletics, knows only too well.

His comments on the eve of the International Amateur Athletic Federation World Indoor Championships, which start in Maebashi, Japan, tomorrow are cautious.

"The 1998 season was, for Great Britain, a year of superlatives, and it will be a difficult act to follow," he said. "The team selected is a good balance between the experienced, established athlete and the inexperienced, emerging athlete. The World Indoor Championships cannot be used as a benchmark for the sport, but rather as a stepping-stone for individual athletes."

Even so that basis, however, there are a number of British athletes ready to step forward with confidence at an event which has attracted a record entry of 717 competitors, representing 123 countries from five continents.

The strongest hopes of gold medals for Britain reside in Colin Jackson, Ashia Hansen and Jamie Baulch in the 60m hurdles, triple jump and 400m respectively.

Other than the Olympic title, the World Indoor Championship is the only other major event Jackson has not won in a 14-year international career. Six years ago in Toronto, Jackson was deprived of victory after his friend and training partner Mark McKoy took advantage of a flying start, which even he admitted had been hesitant, to add a world indoor title to the Olympic gold he had won the previous year.

Two years ago in Paris, Jackson was beaten on the dip by a 21-year-old Cuban hurdler,

Ander Garcia, who will seek to defend his title this week. This time around, the 32-year-old Welshman is hoping that fortune will be kinder to him.

Hansen, who set the world indoor record of 15.16m at last year's European Indoor Championships, has returned to something approaching that form this year after a season which was undermined by injury.

Baulch, unbeaten in four 400m races on the indoor circuit, has gained in experience since he was beaten into second place at the last World Indoor Championships. His season's best of 45.60sec offers hope of victory in Japan, where his rivals include reigning champion Sunday Bada of Nigeria, who defeated Baulch two years ago, the rising Spanish talent David Canal, who ran 46.00sec virtually by himself at the recent national championships, and Tomas Czubak of Poland.

There are also golden possibilities in the 400m relay event, where Baulch will be joined by a team that includes the highly talented but unpredictable Solomon Wariso and the former double European indoor champion, Du'Aine Ladejo, now concentrating mainly on the decathlon. Ladejo's experience could also see him make an impact in the individual event.

At the 1997 World Indoor Championships in Paris, Britain came away with three silver medals; two years earlier in Barcelona the pickings were even thinner - a silver and a bronze. But a talented team which, as Jones points out, combines youth and experience, offers a prospect of a better return from this event than has been gained in recent years.

For three 21-year-old athletes - Ross Ballie, the 60m hurdler who trains with Jackson, Eddie King, a convincing winner of the AAA indoor 1500m title, and Shani Anderson, who took the 200m title at the same event - Maebashi offers the opportunity for a breakthrough.

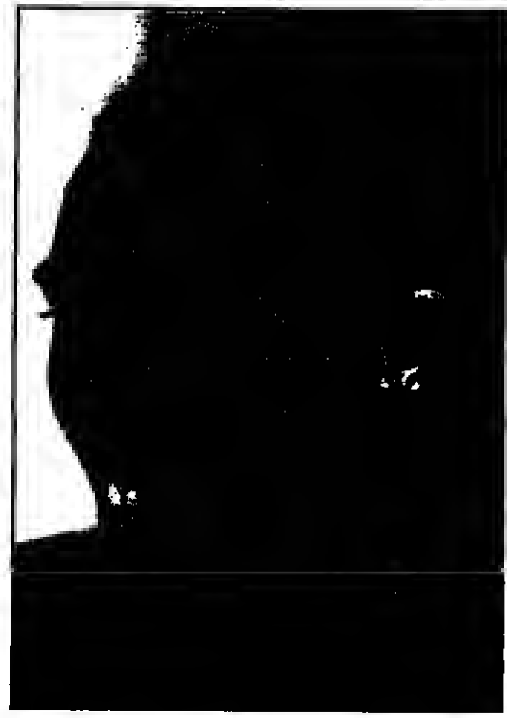
At the other end of the age scale John Regis - written off

### SIX TO MAKE IT BIG IN JAPAN



ASHIA HANSEN

Back to the kind of form which brought her the world indoor triple jump record of 15.16 metres last year after a summer season marred by injury. Her 1999 best of 14.81 puts her within range of that record, but opponents such as Sarika Kasparikova of the Czech Republic will punish her for any inconsistency.



COLIN JACKSON

Other than the Olympics, this is the only title in a 14-year international career he has yet to win. With confidence restored by two good years of competition which saw him win world silver and European gold, the 32-year-old Welshman is ready to run close to his own 60m hurdles world record of 7.30sec.



WILSON KIPKETER

The naturalised Dane, who broke the 800m world record twice at the last World Indoor Championships and went on to lower Seb Coe's outdoor mark, caught malaria last year while in his native Kenya. Despite that, he ran 1min 43.18sec for the distance on his return, although he later finished last in the Commonwealth Games final. How fit is he now?



HAILE GEBRSELASSIE

The Ethiopian, who set his 15th world record in the 5,000m at Birmingham's national indoor arena last month, has his sights on number 16 in Maebashi - the 3,000m mark of 7min 24.90sec set by his Kenyan rival Daniel Komen in Budapest last February. Gebrselassie has already run the distance in 7:26.80 this season in his indoor debut at Karlsruhe.



EMMA GEORGE

The blonde Australian raised her world pole vault record to 4.60m in Sydney last month, but she is competing in a relatively new event which is generating widespread competition. At the last World Indoor Championships, she was beaten by Stacy Dragila of the United States. This time there is another outstanding US challenger in Melissa Mueller.



FRANKIE FREDERICKS

The 32-year-old Namibian, who has won nine major outdoor sprinting medals including four Olympic silvers, has only entered the World Indoor Championships once before, taking silver in the 200m six years ago. He arrives with no indoor background, but recorded outdoor times of 9.94sec (100m) and 19.92sec (200) in Australia last month.

by many after two years of indifferent form - is intent on showing that there is life in his legs yet. The 32-year-old, who earned a Commonwealth bronze at the end of last season, won last month's Bupa grand prix 200m at Birmingham in 20.50, a time which puts him in the medal frame.

Regis will face another 32-year-old in Frankie Fredericks, the man who ran him into second place over 200m at the 1993 outdoor World Championships.

The shorter sprint features

Maurice Greene, who looked ready to improve upon the world record of 6.39sec he set in Madrid last year when he ran 6.40 in the semi-finals of last weekend's US indoor championships. But the man from Kansas City slightly injured his hamstring in the process and could only manage second place in the final, clocking 6.49sec to Tim Harden's 6.44.

Jason Gardener, with a best of 6.52sec this season, will be hoping to get among the medals for Britain. While many athletes still re-

gard indoor competition as little more than winter training, the potential rewards offered by this championship have attracted many well-known names apart from Greene and Fredericks to Japan this weekend.

Haile Gebrselassie, Gail Devers and Wilson Kipketer are among the Olympic or world champions scheduled to appear at an event where winners stand to earn \$50,000 (£31,000), with a further \$50,000 on offer for a world record. Silver is worth \$20,000, and bronze \$10,000.

Steve Smith, back to top competition for the first time since seriously injuring his

## Britain signs French director

BY JOHN ROBERTS

THE VOGUE for French coaches extended to tennis yesterday when Patrice Hagelauer was appointed to "lead the effort to turn talented young British players into world class professionals" in the wake of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.

Hagelauer, 51, guided Yannick Noah to the French Open title in 1983, the first home success since Marcel Bernard in 1946, and was a major influence on France's subsequent Davis Cup triumphs as head coach of the French Tennis Federation.

As the LTA's first performance director, Hagelauer will work from an annual budget of £4.5m to raise the standard of players, male and female, including juniors, and will have the power to hire and fire. He will head the national training team, which already includes Jeremy Bates, manager of men's tennis, Keith Wooldridge, manager of women's tennis, and Mark Cox, director of the LTA/Rover junior initiative.

John Crowther, the LTA's chief executive, described Hagelauer's role as "free from bureaucracy, a track-suited job with the players and coaches".

That suggests the Frenchman will be more than just another layer in the LTA's administration, although he will report on a daily basis to Richard Lewis, the LTA's director of tennis, who is part of a backing group, an "open forum" comprising members of the LTA's international and professional board, including Mike Hann, its chairman; Billy Knight, the former player, coach and Davis Cup captain; Crowther; David Lloyd, the Davis Cup captain; and Nick Brown, the Fed Cup captain.

Hagelauer was asked if he was puzzled by Britain's lack of success in spite of the prestige of Wimbledon and the millions the tournament raised for the LTA to develop the game.

"The actual situation is a good situation," he said, casting a glance from the All England Club's summer tea-room, where he was presented to the media. "You have two guys in the top 10 and you have a good chance to win the Davis Cup. Fifteen years ago, in France we had Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte and very few players in the top 20. It starts with champions. You really have two great champions, and this will help the LTA to raise the juniors. You have some good kids coming. That was not the case a few years ago. It is a good time for me to come here."

Sir Geoffrey Cass, the LTA president, said: "I hope that he's going to bring some panache and Gallic flair to our players."

The problem in British tennis is that not enough people play the game. There are, for example, only 18,000 regular players who have a national rating, against 250,000 in France.



Hagelauer: £4.5m budget

## Facilities upset winter athletes

BRITISH HOPES in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City will be irreversibly damaged unless swift action is taken to nurture promising athletes, a British Olympic Association report concluded yesterday.

The BOA's Athletes' Commission Report, which was compiled after last year's Winter Olympics in Japan, found that 65 per cent of British winter athletes were dissatisfied with the quality of training and competition facilities in the UK. The report canvassed the experiences of 314 athletes, including the 35 who competed in Nagano.

Among the report's other

conclusions were that more should be done to address the issue of unbalanced Lottery funding to athletes, and that the athletes themselves should do more to lobby the Government over subsidisation funding.

Outlining the report's findings, Gavin Stewart, the chairman of the Athletes' Commission, said of the Nagano Games: "For a non-Alpine country such as Great Britain to win a [bronze] medal in bobsleigh, and have four top eight places in curling and ice-skating was

remarkable, and important lessons need to be learned." He added, however, that athletes' concerns needed to be addressed beyond limited successes.

Sean Olsson, a member of the medal-winning bobsleigh team spoke at yesterday's report launch of the intense pressure athletes like himself are under in their quest for funding. "We went to Nagano on the understanding that funding would only continue if we came back with a medal," he said. "It was all or nothing," he added, noting that his team's Lottery funding for last year's Olympics was only confirmed a few

months before the Games. "We're constantly playing catch-up," Olsson said of British preparations compared to other countries. "Once we get a level playing field, that's when we can start competing with these guys."

Nicky Gooch, a medal-winning speed skater in Lillehammer in 1994 and a member of last year's squad, said that unless funding was provided now for more athletes - including a crop of promising teenagers at present training with the British squad - future prospects are limited. "It takes more than two years to make an Olympic athlete," he said.

## Kiwis bat to Test safety

NEW ZEALAND salvaged a draw from the first Test against South Africa in Auckland yesterday in a match that will be remembered for high and low batting records. Daryl Cullinan's 275 not out, a record South African Test innings, and New Zealand tail-ender Geoff Allott's world record 101 minutes without scoring were both indicative of the lifeless Eden Park pitch.

When the match petered out, New Zealand were 244 for 3 in their second innings, still 26 behind South Africa's first innings score of 621 for 5 declared.

Starting the final day's play at 4 for 0, New Zealand had an early concern when Shaun Pol-

lock had Matthew Bell caught for six, hooking to Allan Donald on the fine-leg boundary. But Matt Horne (60), Roger Trose (66) and Nathan Aspin (69 not out) kept South Africa at bay.

Horne was the only batsman out between lunch and tea, when a ball from spinner Paul Adams hit him on the body and trickled on to the stumps.

Along with his 93 in the first innings, Horne completed a good match double and impor-

tantly occupied the crease for over two hours yesterday.

South Africa play a three-day match against a NZ Academy XI starting on Saturday and then the second Test in Christchurch on 11 March.

Final day, New Zealand won the toss SOUTH AFRICA - First innings 621-5 dec (101 minutes 275 not out, G Troselius 128). NEW ZEALAND - First innings 244 (11 hours 53). NEW ZEALAND - Second innings (Overnight 4 for 0). M J Horne c Adams 60, M D Bell c Donald b Pollock 66, R G Troselius c Cullinan b Klusener 66, C D McMillan not out 27, Adams (13b, 2lb, 2w, 5lb) 22, Troselius 1-15, 2-104, 3-193. DMI not out 1A C Horne, C T Troselius, D L Nash, D L Victor, S B Dool, G J Allott. Bowling: Horne 13-0-61-0, Pollock 13-5-21-1, Donald 9-3-20-0, Klusener 12-6-26-1, Adams 30-11-89-1, Cornie 6-5-5-0, Thompson 2-0-0-0 and D J Harper (Aus).







# Rugby Union: Bath outside-half among the casualties as Woodward brings back Perry, Grayson and Bracken

## Catt culled for England's Irish test

YOU KNOW where you stand with Clive Woodward, which is more than can be said for one or two previous inhabitants of the England hot seat - or the England electric chair, as it might quickly be renamed if the red roses will in the thunder-clap atmosphere of Lansdowne Road on Saturday. Show the national coach an underachieving side and he will show those responsible the exit door, hence his decision to make three highly significant changes to the spine of his team for this weekend's hazardous Five Nations outing here.

Matt Perry replaces the full-back position from Nick Beal, Paul Grayson returns at outside-half for Mike Catt and Kieran Bracken eases Matt Dawson out of the scrum-half berth. In the light of England's scrappy, stop-start and wholly unsatisfactory Calcutta Cup victory at Twickenham almost a fortnight ago, it was impossible to argue with Woodward on any count. Both Beal and Dawson were way below par against the Scots - the word "ponderous" sprang irresistibly to mind - while Catt appeared unable to decide whether he was chronically indecisive or simply unsure of himself.

"I thought they all deserved another run after the win over South Africa in December, but I haven't come here to Ireland to mess about," said Woodward yesterday as he explained his thinking amid the baronial surroundings of Fitzpatrick Castle (not Sean Fitzpatrick, thank God) in Killiney. "We're not experimenting or trying people out; we're past that stage now. We're here to win a rugby match, pure and simple, and this is the team that gives us the best chance of achieving that objective."

Perry's recall, in particular, gives the English defence increased strength and substance. While the traditional Lansdowne Road aerial bombardment has fatally undermined more than enough fledgling international careers down the years to justify its reputation as the "full-back's graveyard", the quietly assured 22-year-old from Bath has already experienced the worst this game can throw at him - a rampaging Jonah Lomu and a Cape Town monsoon - and emerged with a smile on his face. "He's in on merit," pronounced Woodward, who may now be asking himself why he dropped his favourite No 15 in the first place.

Like the good lawyer he will be, Woodward is a man of few words. "He's in on merit," pronounced Woodward, who may now be asking himself why he dropped his favourite No 15 in the first place. "He's in on merit," pronounced Woodward, who may now be asking himself why he dropped his favourite No 15 in the first place.

test of our Five Nations campaign; you know all about it when you play at Lansdowne Road and I think we could have predicted at the start of the season how Ireland will approach this weekend's match. We will need to be disciplined, in every sense of the word. That is what Paul brings to the equation."

As expected, the forward personnel remain more or less in place. Woodward has restricted himself to some mild tinkering, which will result in Richard Hill taking on a more traditional flanker's role and Lawrence Dallaglio calling 99 per cent of the shots from No 8.

"I don't think some of our decision-making was all it might have been against Scotland and if I'm going to take the responsibility for that aspect of our game, it's best that I play in the optimum decision-maker's position," explained Dallaglio. "Mind you, we're the same back-row unit, with the same ability to change our shape if the circumstances arise."

The Irish were forced into a change yesterday when Jonathan Bell, their inside centre from Dungannon, failed to respond sufficiently rapidly to treatment on the "dead" leg he collected during last weekend's club game against Old Belvedere. There will be no great celebrations in the England camp, however: if Bell tackles like the proverbial ton of bricks, his replacement, Roh Henderson, does something very similar with added Kryptonite. And besides, the Wasps centre is currently boasting the most dazzling peroxide hair-do imaginable, so if he fails to cripple his opponents with his high hits, he has every chance of hindering them instead.

## Quinnell aims to keep his cool in heat of Paris

Welsh lock seeking better self-discipline after tape reveals failings against Ireland. By David Llewellyn

IF A CONTRITE Craig Quinnell is anything to go by then Wales are going to be on their party best behaviour when they make their first Five Nations' Championship appearance in the Stade de France on Saturday for what promises to be a shattering encounter against France.

Their coach, Graham Henry, had pinpointed indiscipline as the overriding factor behind their defeat at the hands of Ireland at Wembley last month and the Welsh training camp this week has featured a lot of drill as the players have had it hammered home just what thoughtless fists and feet can cost the whole team.

Henry said yesterday: "We have looked at a video and I think the reaction among the squad was one of surprise. We have talked about discipline and emphasised what it costs the team on the scoreboard and territorially." Tongue in cheek, he added: "I can assure everyone that there has been no punching in training this week."

One of those individuals spoken to by the former Auckland coach was Quinnell, the Richmond lock who picked up a yellow card against the Irish. During a fiery first half at Wembley Quinnell was occasionally caught up in unnecessary bouts of fisticuffs, which put his very presence on the pitch at risk.

Quinnell, who is still only 23, said yesterday: "I've been reprimanded by Graham Henry in training this week and rightly so. I went over the top in the first half against Ireland. My lack of self-discipline let the team down. Graham sat me down and showed me the tape so there was no dodging the issue."

Quinnell, who wins his 10th cap on Saturday, is not having a happy time right now. He has never been a dirty player, hard but fair is a better way to look at the second-row prodigy, although a white card for Richmond against Leicester last weekend would seem to indicate the opposite.

In fact Quinnell's misdemeanours tend to get outside treatment, which probably goes with the territory when you are an outside man the stands around 6ft 6in and weighs in at 18 stone) with outside talent.

And there is no doubting Quinnell's credentials. If his pedigree does not shout out the obvious - he is the son of the former Wales and Lion No 8 and second row Derek Quinnell, the nephew of Barry John and brother of Scott - then listen to what Henry, the grizzled New Zealander, has to say.

"Craig has a major game on his hands against France," pronounced Henry. "He would have been disappointed with his discipline in the Ireland game, but he has the potential to become a top quality international lock."

That is the aim of the Swansea-born Quinnell, who put his recent disciplinary blips down to something a lot less sinister. "It was over eagerness," he explained. "The physical side has always been an important part of my game, but it's got to be channelled into big hits - legitimate tackles - and making ground with the ball in hand. That's my strength and that's what Graham Henry wants me to do. I am determined to do well for Wales."

That determination is borne out in the remarkable recovery he has made from what looked like a serious injury just five weeks ago. Quinnell damaged tendons in a knee early in the second half of Richmond's Allied Dunbar Premiership match against Leicester in January.

The initial prognosis put Quinnell's earliest possible return at eight weeks, thus wiping out the bulk of Wales' Five Nations campaign as far as he was concerned. But the Quinnells are made of sterner stuff and the former Welsh Schools shot-putter set about rescuing his season and his knee in his own way.

Quinnell explained: "Steve Black, the Wales fitness adviser, thought I had a chance of a quicker recovery, so I booked into a Cardiff hotel for three weeks and started on a course of five hours of physiotherapy every day at a private hospital in Penryn on the outskirts of the city."

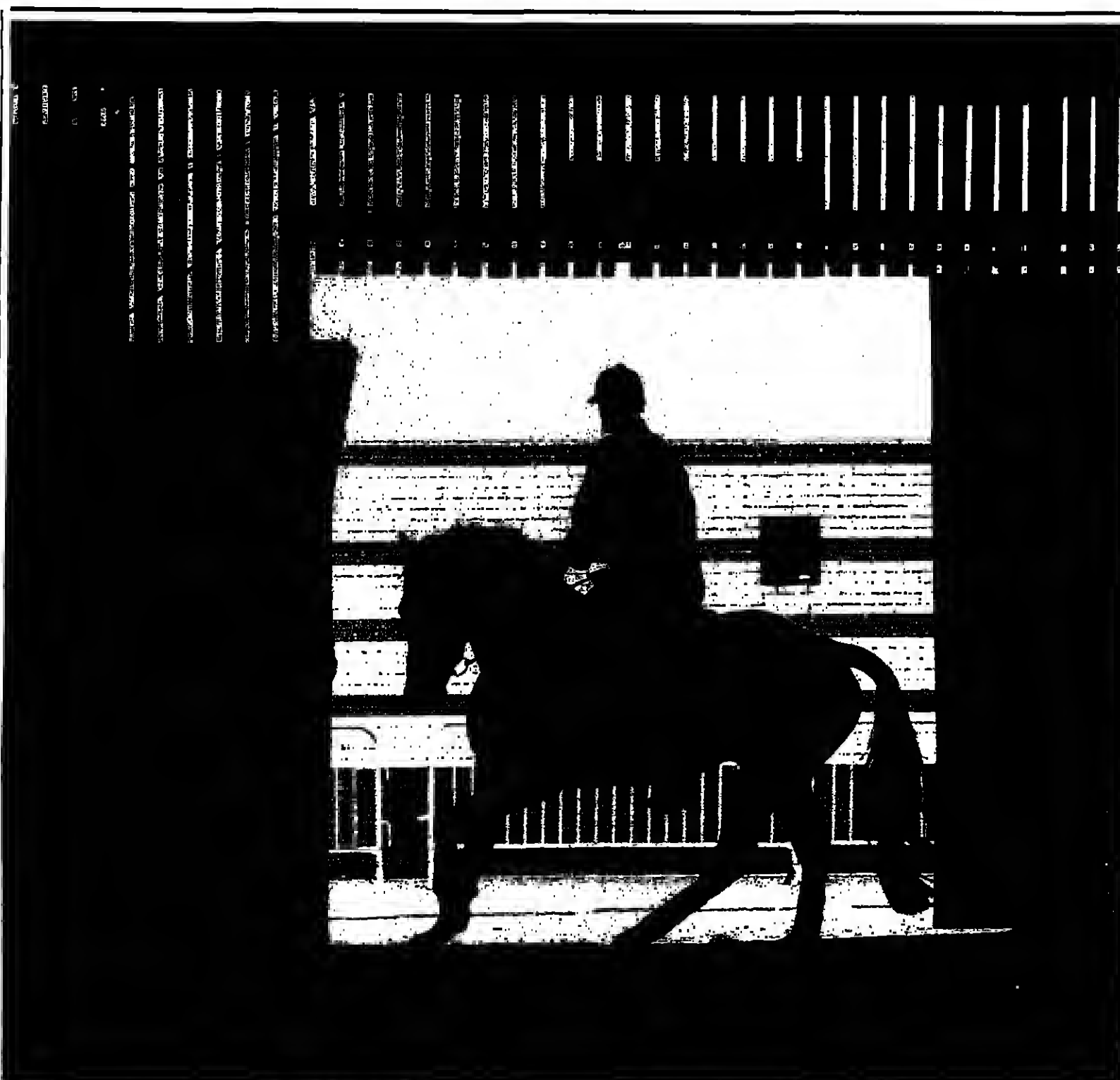
It worked. He had to remain a frustrated spectator for Wales' unsuccessful Five Nations opener against Scotland at Murrayfield, but within four weeks of sustaining the injury Quinnell had recovered enough to make it into the Wales team for that Ireland match. "I'm still well short of full fitness but I'm getting there," he said.

And considering his prospects at the outset of the Five Nations had looked so grim, it is perhaps not surprising that he did go over the top at Wembley. But that is the essence of the man.

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A member of the British elite horse trials squad takes advantage of the indoor facilities at Stoneleigh yesterday. Robert Hallam

## Slim chance of success pleases Stark

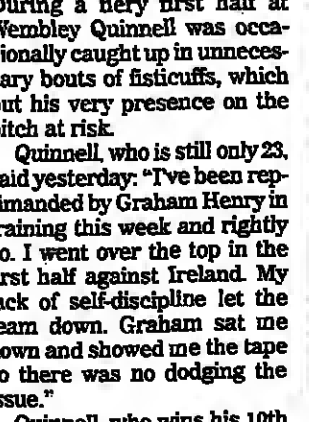
A NEW slim-line Ian Stark, who has lost 21 pounds with the help of running, cabbage soup and Diet Coke, was one of 16 riders named yesterday for the Horse Trials World Class Performance squad.

"I'm nearly twice as old as some of the others, so I was determined to be fit," 45-year-old Stark said at Stoneleigh, where 11 members of the squad were on a training course. Next month ("on April Fool's Day") he will take a fitness test including so-called "skinfold thickness", assessment of leg and arm strength, and 13 minutes running on a treadmill.

The tests have been introduced to obtain money from the Lottery Sports Fund. Around £90,000 will be available for riders' subsistence, though Stark (who travels to Atlanta today to give lessons) is not eligible because he earns too much from teaching. Upkeep for his two children, both in full-time education, cannot be included because they are over 16.

But Stark benefits from the lottery as one of six British riders having their expenses paid to next month's Lexington Three-Day Event in Kentucky, as are Kristina Gifford, Katie Parker, Owen Moore and Charlotte Ridley.

Mary King, who gave birth to a son last February, is not on the world class list, but is likely to be added once back in competition with her top horses, Star Appeal and King Solomon.



Quinnell: 'I let team down'

### TAUNTON

HYPERION  
2.10 Ton Ton 2.40 Blue Blazer 3.10 High In The Clouds 3.40 Greycoat Boy 4.10 Bells Wood 4.40 Dovetto 5.10 High Low

GOING: Soft.  
Right-hand course. Run-in of 150yds.  
Course is S of town on B5170 Taunton station 2m.  
COMMISSION: Members £11; Paddock £3; Centre of Course £5.  
Accompanied under free. CAR PARK: Taunton station 2m.  
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS  
LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 44-222 (58%), P Hobbs 29-18 (24%), R Hodges 17-15 (33%), P Nicholls 10-10 (11%).  
LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 27-143 (58%), M A Fitzgerald 14-54 (35%), C Hinde 15-55 (55%), N Williamson 12-59 (22%).  
FAVOURITES: 103-423 (33%).  
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Gallopington Gums (24), Cawarra Boy (14), Pencer's Quest (5).

### 2.10 TAUNTON 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,400 added 2m 31f 10yds

1 65/54 TAIN TON (2) M Tustin-Davies 7 11.5  
2 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
3 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
4 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
5 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
6 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
7 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
8 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
9 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2  
10 65/54 CACCONI (3) C Popham 5 11.2

BETTING: 11-4 Ton Ton, 6-4 Flagship Thruway, 7-4 Cain Fina, 12-1 Guss Ropucha, 14-1 Sanderson, 16-1 Bonnet, 25-1 Longstone Lad, 32-1 others

FORM VERDICT  
Plenty of dead weight here, with only TAIN TON, Flagship Thruway and probably improved Guss Ropucha making serious appeal. Form pick: Tain Ton sets a fair standard.

### 2.40 PITMINSTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 added 2m 1f

1 20/45 ALMARA (3) R Hodges 7 11.0  
2 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
3 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
4 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
5 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
6 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
7 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
8 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
9 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8  
10 34/25 BLUE BLAZER (3) R Foz 9 11.8

BETTING: 6-1 Gallopington Gums, 9-2 Blue Blazer, 11-2 Keen Bld, 7-1 Blaze Of Oak, 9-1 Irish Sea, 9-1 Memory's Music, 10-1 Almara, Ballyheenan, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT  
A happy-looking race in which several can be fancied. BLAZE OF OAK may be the answer after a decent effort (under today's rider) last time on his first run for 10 months, though Keen Bld in particular has to be respected against him.

### 3.10 NATWEST CORPORATE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m

1 31/25 MILLERSFORD (16) D J Goss 6 11.3  
2 31/25 HIGH IN THE CLOUDS (4) H Day 7 10.0  
3 31/25 PARADE RACER (24) P Murphy 8 10.0  
4 31/25 SAINT JOSEPH (14) S Young 8 10.0  
5 31/25 TROUBLE AHEAD (16) R S Bailey 8 10.0  
6 31/25 TROUBLE AHEAD (16) R S Bailey 8 10.0  
7 31/25 TROUBLE AHEAD (16) R S Bailey 8 10.0  
8 31/25 TROUBLE AHEAD (16) R S Bailey 8 10.0  
9 31/25 TROUBLE AHEAD (16) R S Bailey 8 10.0  
10 31/25 TROUBLE AHEAD (16) R S Bailey 8 10.0

BETTING: 11-4 High In The Clouds, 9-4 Trouble Ahead, 9-2 Millersford, 14-1 Saint Joseph, 10-1 Parade Racer

FORM VERDICT  
Trouble Ahead should win races but he could struggle to contain HIGH IN THE CLOUDS who was a pretty good hurdler and straps as a 2m miler. However, the selection didn't jump that well last time and will have to improve on that score today.

### 3.40 SHEPTON MALLET NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3m 11yds

1 42/50 BLACKWATER BRAVE (7) P Nicholls 6 11.5  
2 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
3 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
4 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
5 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
6 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
7 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
8 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
9 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5  
10 42/50 BROWN HOLLOW (8) M S Welling 6 11.5

BETTING: 11-4 Greycoat Boy, 3-1 Master Rastus, 9-2 Durr Glen, 13-2 Blackwater Brave, 7-1 Blandford, Newby End, 5-1 10-11

FORM VERDICT  
With Newby End, who holds MASTER RASTUS on one line of form (through the Frodoes), apparently having lost his way, the way looks clear for Master Rastus. He is likely to be followed home by Greycoat Boy.

### 4.10 MITFORD SLADE CHALLENGE TROPHY HUNTER CHASE (H) £4,000 added 3m

1 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
2 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
3 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
4 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
5 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
6 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
7 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
8 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
9 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1  
10 02/25 SINGLE MAN (2) J J Lusk 11 10.1

BETTING: 11-4 Pylar, 11-2 Longstone Traveller, Master Hossie, 6-1 Archer, 14-1 The Last, 8-1 Ardmore, Belle Wood, 10-1 Just Sea, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT  
Archer will be popular after his recent hurdled success, but his current form is open to question, though in Falcoun Ridge he has been a moderate and MISTER HORATIO, who would probably have more modesty than any of the others, can prominently in the Herford race after a year and a half off and can turn the tables.

### 4.40 ROYAL BATH & WEST NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (F) £4,400 added 2m 11yds

1 20/55 SOL MUSIC (35) J King 7 11.0  
2 41/25 MISS PENNYHILL (77) O A Sack 6 11.5  
3 25/50 CADDY'S PRIDE (17) H H Howe 7 11.1  
4 10/50 CAVANARH BOY (77) O A Sack 6 11.5  
5 25/50 GIVE AND TAKE (21) R Foz 6 11.5  
6 00/50 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER (14) R Hodges 8 10.1  
7 44/42 DOVETTO (16) C J Price 10 10.0  
8 10/50 FLY TO BUST (35) N Babbage 6 11.6  
9 10/50 FLY TO BUST (35) N Babbage 6 11.6  
10 40/50 TEE TEE TON (77) C Jackson 7 10.0

BETTING: 11-4 High Low, 11-4 Pencer's Quest, 7-2 Falcoun Ridge, 4-1 Knockaroo, 29-1 Dandling Devils, 25-1 P F R Dant

FORM VERDICT  
A tricky race, as all of the runners were well beaten last time and could be very much open to question, though in Falcoun Ridge he has been a moderate and MISTER HORATIO, who would probably have more modesty than any of the others, can prominently in the Herford race after a year and a half off and can turn the tables.

### 5.10 BLACKDOWN HILLS H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 1f

1 03/35 HIGH LOW (USA) (16) D J Jones 11 11.0  
2 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
3 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
4 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
5 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
6 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
7 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
8 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
9 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5  
10 04/41 FALCON RIDGE (24) M S Welling 11 11.5

BETTING: 7-4 High Low, 11-4 Pencer's Quest, 7-2 Falcoun Ridge, 4-1 Knockaroo, 29-1 Dandling Devils, 25-1 P F R Dant

FORM VERDICT  
A tricky race, as all of the runners were well beaten last time and could be very much open to question, though in Falcoun Ridge he has been a moderate and MISTER HORATIO, who would probably have more modesty than any of the others, can prominently in the Herford race after a year and a half off and can turn the tables.

### FORM VERDICT

Archer will be popular after his recent hurdled success, but his current form is open to question, though in Falcoun Ridge he has been a moderate and MISTER HORATIO, who would probably have more modesty than any of the others, can prominently in the Herford race after a year and a half off and can turn the tables.

### FORM VERDICT

Archer will be popular after his recent hurdled success, but his current form is open to question, though in Falcoun Ridge he has been a moderate and MISTER HORATIO, who would probably have more modesty than any of the others, can prominently in the Herford race after a year and a half off and can turn the tables.

## Hopes fading for America's Cup bid

HOPE OF A British entry in the America's Cup this year were fading last night as money failed to be transferred by a group of private underwriters, even though the syndicate head, Professor Andrew Graves, had said the cash was promised.

Graves said there was still a slim hope, but acknowledged that the attempt to send the first British challenge to an America's Cup since 1986 may be wound up this weekend. He blamed the lack of a clear television contract as part of the reason for sponsors being unwilling to commit up to £2m initially with another £4m needed.

Nor has he given the go-ahead for syndicate manager Angus Melrose to fly to Auckland for a meeting of all the challengers which starts next Monday.



# McCann steps up pressure on Farry

FERGUS McCANN yesterday launched another attack on Jim Farry by criticising the Scottish Football Association chief executive's refusal to resign.

The Celtic managing director has urged other Scottish clubs to support Celtic's stance on the Farry issue when the matter is discussed at SFA executive committee level tomorrow and by the SFA council on Monday.

Farry continues to deny claims he mishandled the 1996 registration of Jorge Cadete, damaging Celtic's League and Scottish Cup prospects.

This is despite his suspen-

BY MARK PIERSON

sion from the SFA in the wake of an independent inquiry which ruled in favour of Celtic.

McCann, speaking at a charity fund presentation yesterday, reiterated his impatience at Farry's decision to fight on. "For the sake of Scottish football I would like to see this thing over now because it has taken too long," he said.

"We have spent too much time to press for an issue that should never have required so much of our attention."

"I would hope all the other

clubs recognise what we did was absolutely necessary. It was about the way football is governed and being able to rely upon the quality of professionalism, support, communications and decision-making that we expect of all the people in charge of the game."

McCann's own Celtic tenure is approaching its conclusion, and he made it clear that progress is being made on a hand-over he is keen to ensure matches his vision of the future.

"We are hoping to have a new person coming into my job fairly shortly with an overlap be-

fore I go which will be in the next few months. We are still trying to fill the general manager's position on the football side but in general terms we are going forward," he said.

Scottish Players' FA secretary Tony Higgins insists the SFA must learn the lessons of the Cadete saga, regardless of Farry's fate.

Higgins is concerned that too many members of SFA committees have no public persona to the point where the chief executive has the potential to become a scapegoat as well as a figurehead.

While reluctant to comment directly on Farry's role in the dispute with Celtic, Higgins agreed the three-year battle became too personalised.

He feels wider responsibility must be taken at SFA headquarters for the events which surrounded the delayed registration of Cadete.

"The players' union put some proposals to the SFA a couple of years ago because we feel there is a perception that one man, the chief executive, is responsible for everything."

"We believed then, and still do now, that the chairmen of all

the relevant committees, from discipline to coaching, are seen to take responsibility for those individual areas."

"There seems to be the sense that everything emanates from the chief executive, and committee heads are not recognised by the public in the same way cabinet members would be under a prime minister."

"In my mind, irrespective of Farry losing his position or not, the SFA needs to have more public figures in future than their chief executive and the national coach."

Farry remains suspended

on full pay with his future in the balance until a firm decision is taken by the SFA.

Celtic midfielder Morton Wieghorst, meanwhile, is optimistic of returning within the next month to offer a boost to his side's aim of denying rivals Rangers a domestic treble.

Although Celtic remain 10 points behind in the Scottish Premier League, their form is such that they cannot yet be ruled out of the equation even if time appears against them. "I'm not holding back in training now. Quite how long it will be before I'm back in first-

team action I don't know. I started training only just over a fortnight ago," Wieghorst said. "I haven't spoken to [Celtic physio] Brian Scott about a date for resuming games. I had mentioned the end of March as a target date for full fitness and for having one or two games, but it's still too early to say that will come true."

Even so, the Danish international, involved at France 98 but injured in a pre-season friendly at Kilmarnock, accepts he needs to be sensible and make a gradual return.

## Graham's challenge lifts Ginola

DAVID GINOLA, the artist who has been labelled the best footballer in the world by Dutch master Johan Cruyff, knows the day may never dawn when he earns anything like such a glowing reference from George Graham.

But the pin-up boy of White Hart Lane willingly accepts the challenge that is continually being presented to him by Tottenham's demanding manager and it is why, even at 32, he still has a voracious hunger to live up to Cruyff's claim.

The flying Frenchman was again the familiar toast of Spurs fans after Tuesday's 3-0 win over dismal Southampton in which he expertly crafted two spectacular goals for strikers Chris Armstrong and Steffen Iversen and then, in the last 20 minutes of a one-sided match, toyed mercilessly with the collapsing opposition.

But although Graham acknowledged Ginola's undoubted genius, the Scottish taskmaster who makes pragmatism seem like an art form was still quick to pick out the flaw in his game.

"He should be scoring more goals from his side of the pitch," said Graham. "We need him to be getting into the penalty area more, where he should be knocking in more tap-ins."

"That's why I brought on Jose Dominguez as substitute for him in the last few minutes," grinned Graham. "He did exactly that - and scored with his first touch." Considering that Graham admits he would sell Dominguez tomorrow if the right offer came along, it is no wonder the manager's comments provoked a gale of laughter.

And Ginola saw the funny side of it, too. He said: "I'm very happy because I made two goals and, really, the third one as well because it was me who went off to let Jose come on."

But Ginola was deadly serious when he admitted: "We can never be satisfied with how we play. The manager just wants us to get better and better all the time. It was very nice to get that tribute from Johan Cruyff. He was my hero when he played and it is true he tried to sign me for Barcelona when I was with Paris St-Germain."

BY BILL PIERCE

"But George Graham is the manager I play for now and he is such a manager that he makes you want to please him by improving with every game."

So who deserved the credit for the opening goal against Southampton, scored by Armstrong and set up by Ginola with a superbly disguised free-kick reminiscent of the Argentinian effort against England involving Ariel Ortega and Javier Zanetti in the World Cup last summer?

"George Graham, of course," said Ginola. "We worked on it time and again in training and George so badly wanted it to work. I watched it in the Argentina-England game but it was George's idea to try it and that's why I ran over to him after Chris scored."

"We were all delighted but maybe it is the kind of thing you can use only once. And with the free-kick you have to give the ball with just the right pace."

"Chris said afterwards it was easier scoring it in the match than it had been in training. And when we watched it on television after the game with a glass of champagne it certainly looked like he was right."

Cynics still believe the unlikely pairing of Graham and Ginola will one day end in tears. But there is a fierce determination by the Frenchman to keep his manager satisfied and he is doing that with the growing number of goals he is creating with early crosses.

But Ginola has yet to score in the Premiership this season - his only two goals this term coming in the Worthington Cup and the FA Cup - and that statistic mirrors Spurs' immediate ambitions.

Victory on Tuesday lifted them to 10th in the League and ended a frustrating series of six consecutive League draws. But with a Wembley place already booked in the Worthington Cup final in three weeks, another route to the twin towers beckons on Saturday in the FA Cup quarter-final at First Division Barnsley.

Spurs were knocked out in the fourth round at Oakwell last year but relegated Barnsley



Eye on the ball: Tottenham midfielder Allan Nielsen flies high in Tuesday's 3-0 victory over Southampton at White Hart Lane

Reuters

should present few problems now and Ginola said: "If we play as we have been playing recently I am sure we can go through. At least we are winning again now instead of drawing."

Striker Les Ferdinand would dearly love a shot at revenge

after being sent off at Barnsley last year, but the England international, who had to miss Tuesday's game while still fully recovering from concussive blows to the head which forced early retirement in his previous two games, may have to settle for a substitute role.

Armstrong was back on target, and back in form, against Southampton having failed to score since his hat-trick against Everton in December while Iversen's goal was saluted by Graham as just reward for an impressive display by the young Norwegian who has

underachieved in recent outings.

Iversen, who missed much of last season with a knee injury and then broke his jaw against Liverpool in December, said: "Up to now I've not been at my best because I've still been a little nervous because of the in-

juries I've had in the past, but I'm beginning to feel much more relaxed and it is all down to George Graham. He makes us all feel so much more confident and when we play like this everybody lightens up. Now I'm totally satisfied with my entire situation here."

## Bologna stake semi-final claim

THE BALANCE of power between Italian, Spanish and French clubs in the Uefa Cup quarter-finals is still far from decided - with only Italy's Bologna being overwhelming winners on Tuesday.

They beat the French side Lyon 3-0, but there was all to play for in the second leg of the three other matches, which all had 2-1 scorelines. Roma fell at Atletico Madrid, Marseilles beat Celta Vigo at the Stade Velodrome and Bordeaux won at home against Parma.

It was two goals from Florian Maurice that earned Marseilles their win over Celta Vigo

as the Riviera club kept on course to repeat their European glory days. Maurice scored in the 33rd and 67th minutes with the Russian Alexander Mostovoi equalising in the 84th minute.

Vigo have already proved their pedigree to beat two former European Cup winners in Liverpool and Aston Villa in previous rounds.

Atletico Madrid dominated Roma but had to settle for a 2-1 victory over the Italians in a gritty match. Romero Jose Mari opened the scoring in the 13th minute and Roberto made it 2-0 just minutes into the second half while Roma failed to create a sin-

gle clear chance. But their international midfielder, Luigi Di Biagio, conjured a goal out of nothing in the 75th minute, blasting a 30-yard free-kick into Atletico's net to give Roma a chance in the second leg.

Giuseppe Signori all but booked Bologna's place in the last four after engineering a convincing victory over Lyon. Signori scored a goal in each half and then set up the third for Jonatan Binotto.

A late goal by Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo gave Parma hope for a semi-final berth following their defeat at Bordeaux. Johan Micoud and

then Sylvain Wiltord put Bordeaux 2-0 up just before half time and everything looked to be going wrong for Parma when their captain, Antonio Benarrivo, was sent off for his second yellow card with eight minutes to go. But substitute Crespo, who has 15 goals to put him second in Italy's top scorers this season, earned a valuable away goal with seconds of the match remaining.

The Bordeaux coach, Elie Baup, said afterwards: "I still believe we can make it to the semi-finals as we have never lost away in the Uefa Cup all season."

## TODAY'S NUMBER

4,000

The athletes from 70 countries set to compete in 17 sports at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester

**FOOTBALL RESULTS**

**YESTERDAY**

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY** (Score Zagreb): Croatia 2 (Bjelic 22, Vukobratovic 41) Slovenia 1 (Pretner 9)

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE** Second Division: Luton 1 (Simpson 10) Northampton 0

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE** Third Division: Chesterfield 2 (Graham 10, 15) Rotherham 1 (Phipps 10)

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE** Fourth Division: Walsley 1 (Hartley 10) Walsley 1 (Hartley 10)

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## SPORT

BRACKEN'S CALL TO ARMS P25 • COUNTDOWN FOR COULTHARD P22

## Chelsea plan to overcome Olsen obstacle

HISTORY IS on Chelsea's side, but it may be an unreliable ally in tonight's European Cup-Winners Cup quarter-final first leg at home to Vålerenga. Although the Oslo club's record in European competition is wretched, they have been revitalised since the arrival six months ago of Graham Taylor's oenosis, the former Norway coach Egil Olsen.

After retiring from international football following last year's World Cup finals, having beaten Brazil twice, Italy and Taylor's England in the course of transforming his country's fortunes, the bespectacled lecturer and former political activist lifted Vålerenga from the bottom of their league to finish seventh. Olsen's favoured direct style of play then brought the club a first win in eight seasons of European football, on away goals over Rapid Bucharest, to

FOOTBALL  
BY STEVE TONGUE

be followed by a remarkable comeback against John Toshack's Beşiktaş: 3-0 down at half-time in Istanbul, they fought back to draw the game and win the tie.

That second leg, at the beginning of November, was Vålerenga's last competitive match, which must be something of a disadvantage. They have been warming up, in every sense, in La Manga, where Chelsea scouts watched them play three games and were particularly impressed by John Carew, a tall 19-year-old striker probably destined for a lucrative move abroad. "Carew is faster than their defenders, so we could easily get a goal on the break," Olsen boasted. Carew has played for Nor-

way in their last four internationals, alongside Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo, who said yesterday: "He is a good striker and they will be a very well organised team. It will be a difficult match for us. Egil Olsen likes to wait for the opposition to make mistakes, but he's a very good manager and I really respect what he's doing. They will sit back, kick the ball into the other half and play from there. They have tall, strong players, who can match us physically. So we have to play better football than them."

The huge Continental influence in whichever team Gianluca Vialli puts out ought to help do that, though the player-manager would be more confident if Chelsea, beaten only once in three months, had not made such hard work of their two previous ties in this season's competition, also against Scan-

dinavian opposition. They defeated Helsingborg of Sweden only 1-0 at home, then hung on for a grim goalless draw in the return. In the second round, Marcel Desailly equalised in the last minute against FC Copenhagen to preserve a 40-year-old unbeaten home record in Europe, before Brian Laudrup won the tie in Denmark.

Laudrup then joined the Danish club, effectively in part-exchange for Bjarne Goldbaek, who had scored his team's goal at Stamford Bridge. That means Goldbaek is ineligible tonight, along with the young Finnish striker Mikael Forssell, who appeared in the Champions' League for HJK Helsinki.

Dennis Wise, currently serving another domestic suspension after his fourth red card of the season, has played about as often as Vålerenga recently, but is in the squad this evening. He must compete for one of the four midfield places with Dan Petrescu, Roberto Di Matteo, Jody Morris and Celestine Babayaro.

Although the Norwegians, regular *Match of the Day* viewers, will be well aware how to wind up Graeme Le Saux, there is no suggestion of the England full-back being left out. Vialli's only other decision is, therefore, which two strikers to start with from himself, Flo and Gianfranco Zola.

It is a testing week for Chelsea, who will be unable to devote any attention to their FA Cup opponents, Manchester United, until tomorrow morning at the earliest. Having ensured that they did not fall any further behind United at the top of the Premiership last weekend, however, Vialli sends them into tonight's game saying: "I wouldn't change Chelsea's situation with anybody else's. The more you've got to play for, the better you perform. So let's try to win everything."

Vialli would not be drawn significantly on the role of Ray Wilkins, who has been working with the players and is tipped to step in if Graham Rix, the assistant manager, should go to prison as a result of his court case. "He wants to get back into shape," said Vialli of the former Chelsea club captain. "He's a Chelsea fan so it's nice to have him here. He can help us out in different ways, though he still has something to sort out with Fulham." Wilkins was sacked by Chelsea's ambitious neighbours towards the end of last season after only seven months as team manager.

Vålerenga have a new goalkeeper in the Finn, Mikko Kiven, signed from Motherwell to stand in for the long-term injury victim Tore Krogstad, while the midfielder Bjorn Viltberg is out with a knee injury.

CHelsea (probable): De Gea; Ferrer, Desailly, Laudrup, Le Saux, Petrescu, Wise, Di Matteo, Babayaro; Flo for Vialli, Zola.

More football, pages 26, 27



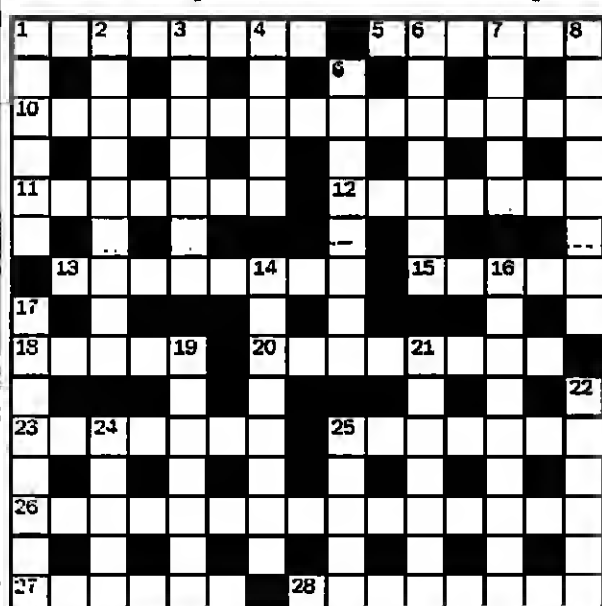
England forwards practise their line-out technique at Blackrock Rugby Union Club yesterday before Saturday Five Nations' Championship match against Ireland at Lansdowne Road, Dublin

## THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3861 Thursday 4 March

by Phi

Wednesday's solution



COURTESY GAUCHES  
UNION OF HONORABLE  
GACHES OF HONORABLE  
TOMORROW  
SUMAC SUNSHINE  
TIPPHUR  
SALADAYS BRINY  
TANER  
HAMMY GALLIOPES  
AERIAL  
CENTURISTS FLEET  
KNAHACSH  
STANDARDS  
ARTISTS  
MAYVILLE ERECTLY

## ACROSS

- 1 Take on rugby players? This'll restore your looks (4-4)
- 5 French location around the Parisian island (6)
- 10 Minimal result of bailing out over the Atlantic? (1,4,2,3,5)
- 11 Men taking to slopes in French town (7)
- 12 Hectic lifestyle involves artist just a little (3,4)
- 13 Bird with egg in flowering plant (8)
- 15 Retiring, finishing early? There's objection (5)
- 18 Some skiing holiday finally has little point here! (5)
- 20 The ultimate employment opportunity for a bugler? (4,4)

## DOWN

- 23 Metal stick with a couple of lines I engraved? (7)
- 25 German bear chewed up plant (7)
- 26 Charge for joining club - it is for teenager, possibly (12,3)
- 27 4 going round Northern French town (6)
- 28 Arab wholly enthralled by peace (an apparent change of position) (8)

- 4 Sticks around home endlessly (3)
- 6 Assumed US lawyer turned up and made a choice (7)
- 7 Field containing new stadium (5)
- 8 4 upset about sin in French town (8)
- 9 French town's cleaner, and very French (8)
- 14 Leprosy treated with a thousand compounds (8)
- 16 Worries, when up-ended in a scrimmage, may be dominating (9)
- 17 Composer's mind upset in French town (8)
- 19 Adriatic port goes European after a little time (7)
- 21 No spear to wave for character in play (7)
- 22 English composer seen around the old University in French town (6)
- 24 Fool hogs good computer access (3-2)
- 25 Golf ball in water-channel, we hear (5)

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Kevin, how do you rate  
Vålerenga's chances?



Not great  
they're only part-timers.



Chelsea v Vålerenga, live tonight from 7.15pm, only on Channel 5.

5

JP 11/10/150



# THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Both these footballers are at the pinnacle of their profession. They earn hundreds of thousands of pounds every year. They play for glamorous, metropolitan clubs.

The boy in red is considered one of the lads. But the boy in blue is vilified by his fellow professionals. Why? Surely not just because he reads novels, goes to galleries and collects antiques?

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS

**G**raeme Le Saux visits art galleries, often with his wife, who is an arts graduate. Eventually, no doubt, their daughter Georgina, born nine weeks ago, will accompany them. Le Saux reads *The Guardian*, has been seen sharing a dinner table with Patrick Marber, Britain's most celebrated young playwright, and wears a haircut that appears to have come from one of the fashionably dishevelled salons of Soho rather than A Cut Above on Chigwell High Street. He is a 30-year-old English professional footballer, and these things make him an exception.

In English football, nothing sticks out like a player who challenges a social orthodoxy inherited by the professional game from its roots in the working class. Those who dare to be different are seldom forgotten, even after the memory of their deeds on the pitch has faded.

Twenty-five years ago, the centre-half Mike England was the only *Daily Telegraph* subscriber in a Tottenham Hotspur dressing room full of *Mirror* readers. Twenty years ago, when West Bromwich Albion toured China, only three members of the team took up an invitation to visit the Great Wall and the Great Canal. Fifteen years ago, Brendan Batson, the squad's three black players, and Pat Nevin became an object of suspicion among his Chelsea colleagues thanks to his preference for the music of Joy Division over that of the footballers' favourite, Lionel Richie. More recently, Brian McClair's long separation with Manchester United included away-leg trips on which he could be found, in Kosice in Slovakia for example, admiring an ancient church.

Leaux is no newcomer to the spotlight scrutiny to which New Football — that is, football in the age of satellite-driven ultra-propriety — subjects its star performers. He has made almost 300 first-team appearances for Chelsea and Blackburn Rovers, and has won 21 England caps, including four in last summer's World Cup finals. Eighteen months ago he was the subject of a £5m transfer, which, even by football's present inflated standards, is still a lot of money for a defender. His is a familiar face on the cover of football magazines, and he has earned his share of notoriety for losing his temper and scrapping on the field — usually with opponents, such as Paul Ince of Liverpool, but most memorably with his own Blackburn team mate, David Batty, during a dismal defeat in Moscow three years ago.

We can be pretty sure that, thanks to the arrival at Stamford Bridge of a squadron of Italians, Frenchmen, Nigerians, Romanians, Russians, Spaniards and Norwegians, Le Saux's cultural preferences no longer seem so deviant within the precincts of his own club. But among a section of his fellow English professionals the treatment of Le Saux has reached new depths of intolerance.

**Last Saturday, during Chelsea's match against**

Liverpool, an incident occurred between Le Sax and Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England forward, for which both men have been ordered to appear before the Football Association's disciplinary committee. Television pictures revealed an incident, unobserved by match officials, in which Le Sax appeared to run up behind Fowler and strike the back of his opponent's head with his elbow.

Just another spat? Just another example of Le Saux's hot-headedness? Not exactly. Yesterday, Le Saux's side of the case was given in detail by a "friend", using a journalistic convention, popularised in recent years by the Prince of Wales and his late wife, which encourages the reader to believe that these are not the thoughts of the friend but those of the plaver: direct and unmediated.

According to this version, Fowler had been taunting Le Sax throughout the match, calling him a "poof" and a "fagot". While Le Sax was preparing to take a free kick in the second half, Fowler turned his back, stuck out his bottom, and shouted, "Come on, come on, give it to me up the arse." The friend said that Le Sax had complained to the referee and linesman, who took no action against Fowler but booked Le Sax for time-wasting. When the Chelsea man further remonstrated with his opponent, telling him that he was a disgrace and that he had insulted his family, Fowler allegedly responded: "Fuck your family." At that point Le Sax decided to exact his own form of retribution, waiting until the ball and the officials' attention were elsewhere before striking the blow that sent Fowler to the ground.

Le Saux's friend further claimed that the Chelsea man had been the victim of similar abuse from players and spectators alike since his arrival in league football 10 years ago, and that the riots on his disciplinary record were a direct result of consistent provocation. Le Saux, he said, is not gay, although he is not anti-homosexual. The footballer is glad that the issue has finally come to light, and hopes that the opportunity to recognise the problem and take action will not be missed.

The truth behind at least part of this claim will be clear to those who attend Chelsea's matches, particularly away from home, since opposition supporters are in the habit of directing what might kindly be described as ribald chants at him. Only those who share the pitch can verify his accusations against other players, although it seems obvious that many opponents would use any known vulnerability in order to unsettle a talented but volatile player, with the possible bonus of getting him sent off for retaliation. And a closer look at Saturday's television pictures appears to support Le Saout's description of the events.

Fowler was last in the news a little more than a month ago, when Liverpool proudly announced their success in negotiating an extended contract with their striker, who was born 23 years ago in Toxteth. For the next five years, his goal-scoring talent will earn him around £40,000 a week. He is

in short, the kind of footballer at whom the *Players' Journal* is aimed. Launched this week, the new glossy magazine of the Professional Footballers' Association contains advertisements for yachts, villas, luxury cars and exotic holidays, items thought suitable for those newly enriched by the desire of major companies to pour money for broadcasting rights and sponsorship into the sport.

With that kind of economic standing has already come, at least among English players, a significant deterioration in behaviour. Not surprisingly, the sudden arrival of such previously unimaginable prosperity, along with the associated fawning publicity, has persuaded some to believe, perhaps beneath the level of conscious logic, that they are no longer answerable to any kind of authority. In that they are certainly encouraged by the reluctance of statutory bodies to deal with their misdemeanours in a recognisably authoritative way

Going on its past form, the FA's disciplinary committee will hump and haw and eventually hand down some ludicrously lenient sentence, along the lines of the recent £20,000 fine and three-match suspension given to John Hartson, the West Ham player, for deliberately kicking a team mate in the head. Recent changes at the top of the FA, elevating officials anxious to appear decisive, have speeded up its procedures without improving its judgement. Nor is it likely to make the crucial distinction between Fowler's offence and Le Saux's. In fact only one man can provide a proper resolution to this unpleasant but highly significant incident.

Liverpool's manager, Gérard Houllier, is a Frenchman whose record includes a highly successful spell in charge of the education and training of his country's young players. In recent seasons his new club, once ruled by the Iron rod of Bill Shankly, has been noted for a lack of discipline on and off the field. When it comes to ticking off his players, the fact that he probably earns less than half of Fowler's salary makes the job harder, but not impossible.

Now is the time for him to earn his money by tearing himself away from the tactical blackboard, and establishing to his own satisfaction the truth or otherwise of Le Saux's allegations.

If he considers Fowler to be guilty as charged, Houllier should order him to call a press conference without an hour's delay and publicly own up to the insults, withdraw them, and offer an unconditional apology to his opponent. Houllier is wise enough to know, and may even be able to persuade Fowler, that the Liverpool player himself would be the secondary beneficiary of such a gesture.

Houllier will have noticed the praise heaped last month on his friend and compatriot Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's manager, for offering to replay an important cup match which his side had won unfairly. The role of Arsenal's chairman, David Dein, in the decision has perhaps been underplayed, but no matter. A Franco-British precedent has now been set.

The Liverpool boss may also, if he retains his subscription to *Paris-Match*, have noticed this week's cover of the magazine, a double portrait of Amélie Mauresmo, the new French tennis star, and her girlfriend. Inside, the two women are photographed - with their full co-operation - on the brink of exchanging a kiss. When Mauresmo first made headlines, during the Australian Open in January, the British newspapers typically made the revelation of her lesbianism into a scandal. The

French treated the news with equanimity, welcoming her without reservation into the national sporting pantheon.

Contrast the seemingly calm acceptance of Amélie Mauresmo with the sensationalism of *The Sun's* Gay Mafia on the one hand, and the television programme *Queer As Folk* on the other – with the cloddish homophobia of Robbie Fowler somewhere in between. M Houllier's next move could do us all a favour:

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ELIZABETH

AT CINEMAS NOW

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## Land of the dumb

Sir: John Sutherland ("Dumb Britannia", 2 March) argues there is no English equivalent for the American phrase "dumbing down". Might I suggest "vulgarisation"? It has the advantage of indicating that the user is still capable of handling big Latin words, and has not been dumbed down to a vocabulary of transatlantic monosyllables.

Do I win the "small prize"?  
TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE  
Bristol BS7 8EP

Sir: Much in John Sutherland's article on Dumb Britannia chimes well with the prejudices and selective memories of advanced septuagenarians such as myself.

Nevertheless, I have to acknowledge that over the past few decades such has been the expansion in volume of the data we seem to require to run our lives that the learning processes that served us well enough in my youth are quite unable to cope with the traffic. It is no wonder that today's young people find it makes better sense to retrieve their data as required from external stores rather than attempting to load their minds and memories. The trick nowadays is to know where to find your information.

However, a far more important indicator of whether or not a dumbing-down process is taking place is where we are going with our data processing. The ability to take two or more observed phenomena and out of them fashion new and reliable data is what makes man only a little lower than the angels. I have no evidence that today's youth are any better or any worse in this regard than we were. They have access to better tools, but does that make them better craftsmen?

DOUGLAS SMITH  
Little Kimble, Buckinghamshire

Sir: John Sutherland's reflections on the English language would carry more authority if he did not keep referring to the Standard English spoken and written in these islands as "English-English" instead of "British English", the term normally used.

Despite wide variations in accent and minor differences in vocabulary and grammar, the Standard English of Brighton has much more in common with that of Brecon, Banff and Belfast (not to mention Bradford and Birmingham) than it does with the Standard English of other Anglophone countries.

British English is one of the main things that keeps the nations of the United Kingdom together, and it will continue to do so even if devolution leads to the dissolution of the latter in its present form. In the year of the Welsh and Scottish parliaments, the assumption that England has some exclusive claim to its ownership seems quaint and defensive.

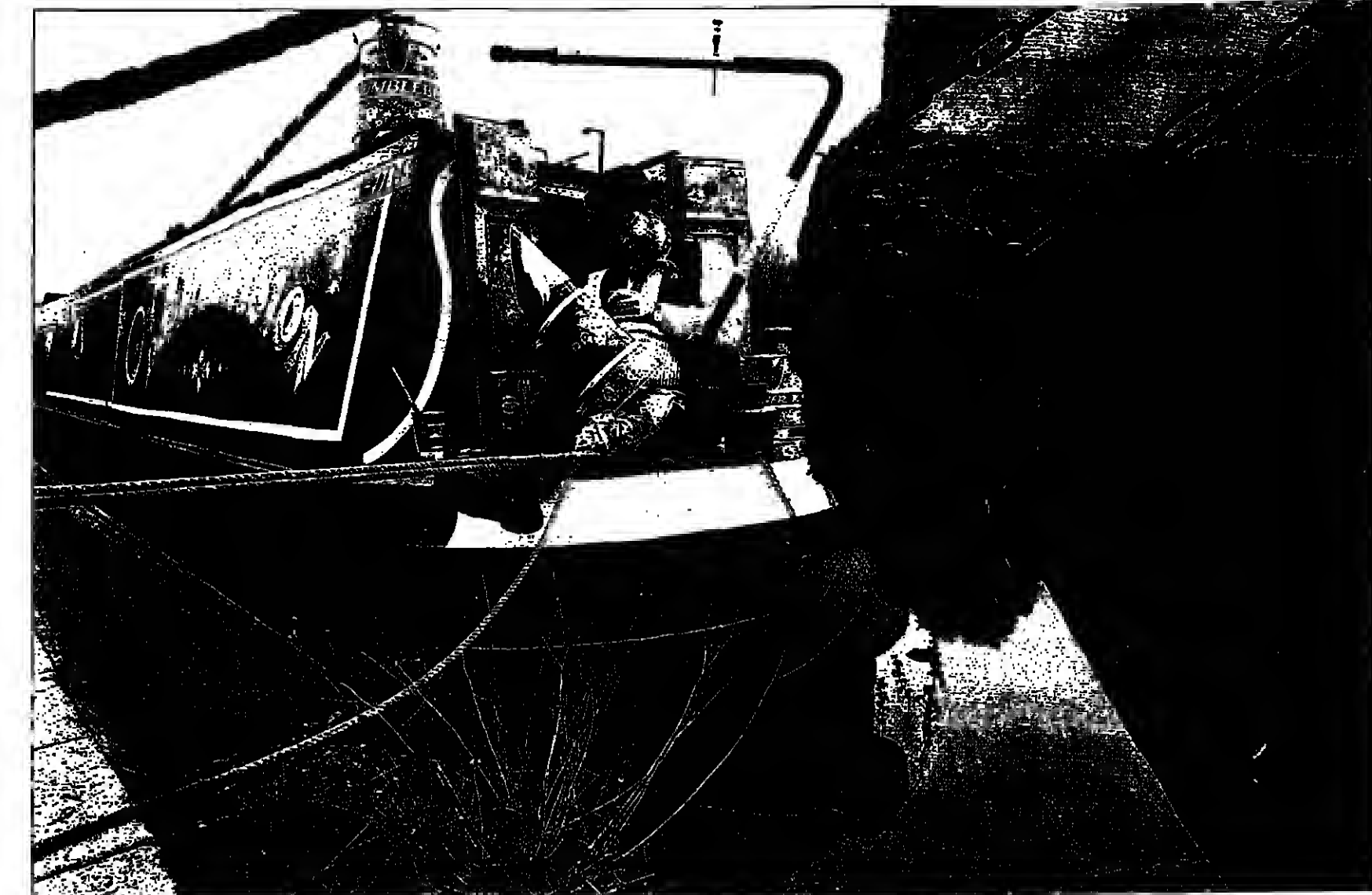
ALAN MACCOLL  
St Andrews, Fife

## The curtain falls

Sir: Melvyn Bragg ("Sorry, Sir Peter, but things are getting better for theatre", 26 February) rejects Peter Hall's charge that "it seems Arts Council policy to provoke the end of many small theatres so that resources can be concentrated on the big boys".

Anyone who looks with a flicker of clear-sightedness at the current policy for drama in the subsidised sector, and not through the rose-tinted spectacles Melvyn is wearing, will see that Peter Hall is giving the facts. The suggestion that Peter's anger could have been exacerbated by his failure to receive funding could only come from someone ignorant of the man.

In spite of what has been done for the flagships, all of which is laudable, the spawning-ground for the future of drama is now suffering from perilsous neglect. If Melvyn Bragg wishes to communicate the facts he should include the threatened demise of the King's Head and some examples of organisations on standstill funding, such as the Black Theatre Co-Op, Tara, Trustee, Theatre Centre, Pop-Up,



Canals of Birmingham No 4: Trevor Hale, a professional narrowboat artist, at work on his boat 'Double Vision' moored in Bilston

Andy Fox

Kaboodle, Oxford Stage Company, English Touring Company, Method and Madness.

I am sorry, Melvyn, things are getting a lot worse, not better.  
THELMA HOLT  
London WC2

## After Lawrence

Sir: So Eltham is real "white man's country"? ("Streets where race hatred is the norm", 25 February) It is true that ethnic minorities make up just over 4 per cent of Eltham's population. This does not prove that the people of Eltham are any different from people in any other part of the country. The ethnic minority population of the UK is also 4 per cent.

Racism is by no means a way of life in the Borough of Greenwich, which includes Eltham. Greenwich has evicted more tenants than any other local authority for harassment. We operate a 24-hour racial harassment hotline. In education we have adopted a policy of refocusing teaching and learning in our schools, as well as using theatre, to help bring home to children the impact of racism.

We have worked hard to combat all forms of racism in Greenwich - overt and institutional. We have done this because we recognise that there is racism in our borough, although we would argue it is no worse than anywhere else.

The council works every day with the community through its network of formal and informal contacts to eradicate racism. Your article may well jeopardise much of that work.

LEN DUVALL  
Leader of Greenwich Council  
London SE18

Sir: A T L Foster-Barnes (letter, 26 February) might be right in asserting that there may be ethnic variation in crime perpetration. But how could such possible differences be "relevant to suspect-search in large communities"?

Perhaps it is being suggested that if, for example, black people were shown to be involved in proportionately more crime than

other ethnic groups, this would aid police because it would indicate they should spend more time searching for black suspects.

May I suggest a different approach to identifying likely suspects? The police could collect evidence regarding a crime and on the basis of this, and not preconceived notions, narrow their search. A novel method perhaps?

ANNOOP SHETTY  
Manchester

Sir: In the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, the Prime Minister suggests that all public organisations should review their attitudes and practices for institutional racism. Nothing that under the Government's Immigration and Asylum Bill, Immigration Officers will be given new powers to search premises, and arrest asylum seekers "using reasonable force if necessary", and remembering the tragic death of Joy Gardner, it has to be asked whether the Government's bold stance on rooting out institutional racism will apply to the Immigration Service. Or not?

C BRYAN  
London SW12

Sir: I was saddened to see in all the media pictures of St David's Day that no one in Wales now wears a leek. It seems that only expatriates like me now sport our ancient emblem. Have they all gone soft in the Principality? Is this why our national rugby team now does so badly? The cartoon in today's paper (3 March) reinforces my disappointment that Prince Charles did not set a good example. Would his ancestor Henry V have won at Agincourt if he had been the sort of Welshman to prefer a daffodil to a leek?

JOHN EVANS  
Marlow, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Nicholas Lezard is "haunted" by the literary ignorance of University

Sir: Kate Watson-Smyth attributes to me the statement that "the people living there were of the same race". ("Celts were 'really just a Scotch myth'", 27 February). I did not in fact use the word "race", and I clarified my position by saying, "No, I am not talking about biological race but about shared cultural features, language etc."

Ms Watson-Smyth seems fairly typical amongst journalists, both print and broadcast, in being unable to distinguish between "race" and "ethnicity". The media, as much as anyone must bear the responsibility for crimes such as the killing of Stephen Lawrence.

ALEX WOOLLY  
Lecturer in Celtic and Early Scottish History and Culture  
University of Edinburgh

## Euro-fiddles

Sir: Whatever else the euro may do it won't stop profiteering during the changeover period. It happened with decimalisation in the UK in 1971 and it happened to me with the euro last week in the Canaries.

We happened to stay for a new nights in a German-run facility and

they refused to take sterling on the grounds that it wasn't part of the euro. Although the price was based in DM, we were asked to pay in pesetas. I didn't know the DM/peseta rate or have a calculator to hand so I paid the amount requested in good faith. After all, their rates were fixed permanently on 1 January.

On the return to the UK I checked the figures. We have been overcharged by 9 per cent. So much for eliminating the vagaries of exchange rates. Just a little foretaste of what is to come.

MATTHEW BENNETT  
London W1

Sir: In your enthusiasm for adopting the euro, how do you comment on the remark of the German Foreign Minister that "for the first time in the history of European integration, an essential element of national sovereignty has been transferred to a European institution"?

RUSSELL CLARKE  
Nottingham

Sir: Hamish McRae (Comment, 2 March) sets out the many economic advantages of a life

outside Euroland, but stops short of arguing for or against British membership of the euro since "that is a decision that goes far beyond economics".

Very true - the political and constitutional ramifications of joining are also largely negative, not to mention the massive cost of conversion. Which leaves what, exactly?

PAUL CLARK  
Truro, Cornwall

Sir: The British have two choices: either they join Europe and accept the euro, or they become the 51st state of the USA. I hope they choose Europe, where nearly all our ancestors came from. Gunhappy America already dictates how we respond to international crises (drop bombs) and it is almost too late for Britain to repair the damage American decadence and lack of family responsibility have done to our young people. Let us vote for the euro and join our closest friends.

JOAN REYNOLDS  
Brightlingsea, Essex

## No abortion

Sir: Goretti Horgan and Anita Villa of Alliance for Choice claim that "successive British governments have ignored" the many Northern Irish women who have to travel to Britain to seek abortions (letter, 1 March).

This is unfair. Northern Ireland was exempted from the 1967 Abortion Act because of pressure from politicians in Northern Ireland, and it is such pressure, from Catholic and Protestant alike, which has kept abortion illegal there. Sectarian politicians may oppose each other on the issue of sovereignty, but they have been as one in forcing theocratic moral laws on the province.

Sinn Féin and the Progressive Unionist Party are as much part of this conspiracy as anyone else, despite their attempts at striking a radical pose on the abortion issue now.

ALEX MACFIE  
Oxford

Sir: Why all the fuss about Alun Michael eating beef on the bone? Surely a pooodle will suffer no harmful effects.

HELEN EDWARDS  
Ruthin, Denbighshire

## IN BRIEF

Challenge students who failed to recognise pictures of James Joyce, Iris Murdoch and T S Eliot (The Joys of Modern Life, 2 March). Oh dear, he'd better count me in among those spectres of ignorance, because in spite of my degree in English Literature I haven't a clue what any of them look like. Stupid me. I always read the words instead of looking at the pictures.

SALLY JEFFERYS  
London SW17

Sir: Tony Blair is understood to be contemplating an election in 2001, a year ahead of time. Should any prime minister these days, except in the rare

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## Age of the saver

Sir: The Government expects those of us in employment to save for our children's university education, save for private pensions, save for private health care, save for periods of unemployment and now to save for residential care in our old age ("Ministers may reject free care for elderly", 2 March). All this when we are paying high income tax and national "insurance" - which is, in effect, nothing but a second income tax since it insures us against nothing.

Has the Treasury considered the effects on the economy of all this enforced saving? "Disposable" incomes will disappear into the coffers of insurance companies, banks and building societies. Manufacturing and the entertainment industry will have to do without a high-volume home market, without which they cannot support export markets.

When you add to this the Government's apparent desire to price us off the roads, is it too cynical to construe that New Labour's millennium ideal is a country in which the quietly obedient, poorly paid masses sit at home chewing genetically modified TV suppers as they reckon up their savings in front of shoddy game shows, docu-soaps and animal programmes?

PAMELA GUYATT  
Tunstall, Devon

Sir: We say we save "for a rainy day", yet when it rains we want someone else to buy the umbrella. If the elderly can afford to go into a private nursing home, they should pay the total costs: that is what they saved up for.

My mother is paying £447 a week in a private nursing home. Of course she sold her house: she did not need it. It may well be that she has little money to leave me and my sister. But she has loved us, brought us up, given us a good education and now is allowing us to live profitable lives. I have no wish to demand that the state pays for her nursing care so that I may have more of the money she and my father saved so that they could stay independent of us.

JOHN D ANDERSON  
Shipley, West Yorkshire

## David who?

Sir: Why is it that David Aaronovitch thinks the man from Guildford's remark about his name is racist? (Comment, 2 March) My grandmother's name was Margaret and she got called Mrs Maggotts so often, everyone told her she ought to change her name.

What an amazing catalogue of assumptions to make about someone he doesn't know and has never met. Could it be that he has assumed that the man is a white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant?

C M ROBERTSON  
Santa Cruz de La Palma, Spain

Sir: David Aaronovitch should not be so sensitive. My grandfather, an immigrant to this country, did change his name. Not, however, to disguise his Jewish ancestry, but to make his name easier for his new compatriots to pronounce. His choice was not entirely successful in that respect, but it does have the advantage of distinction.

JOANNA ROSEFF  
(aka Roscoff, Rosetti, Rosell, Rosess, Rosoff ...)  
Pridy, Somerset

Sir: I think I can set David Aaronovitch's mind at ease. His Mr Guildford is probably not a racist and is probably not called anything like Guildford at all. He may be an Indian called Punjabi, a Welshman called Williams, an eastern European called Zatopek, or even a simple Englishman, like myself, called Ramsey.

What unites us all is not racism but simple envy of David's name. In that great list of life, whenever anything is handed out, there he is at the front of the queue. And, apart from changing our surnames to Aardvark, there is not much we can do about it.

KEVIN RAMSEY  
Manchester

## The 10 greatest adjectives of the 20th century

AS ANNOUNCED in this column yesterday, I am teaming up with ATP - Adjective Trend Plotting, the people who chart the world rankings of adjectives - to organise the poll for the Adjective of the Century.

"By this we mean the adjective which has most affected lives," says ATP boss, Oscar Beussberger. "We don't mean the adjective which has been most widely used. I mean, you wouldn't vote for the common cold as the Disease of the Century, would you? In fact, we think the most commonly used adjective in recent times is 'new', and a boring little adjective it is too. No, what we're after is an adjective which is so ubiquitous and yet charismatic that it has wormed its way into people's conscious, unconscious and subconscious."

"By the way, I think I have al-

ready used some of the prime candidates for the adjective of the year in my introductory speech, namely 'ubiquitous', 'charismatic' and 'conscious'. Not to mention 'prime'."

Can you vote for an adjective you don't like?

"Certainly!" booms the extrovert Oscar Beussberger. (Incidentally, did you notice another candidate there - 'extrovert'?) "I'm all for it! Some of the most unpleasant adjectives are actually some of the most insidiously useful. 'Inappropriate' is probably the nastiest adjective around today, but so many people hide behind it that I fear it will get many votes. 'Dystopian' and 'dysfunctional' are two more examples of what I call Sunday-paper adjectives, ie pretentious, over-used and near-meaningless. Ghost-

ly, all of them, but I expect them to get votes."

Oscar Beussberger says that most fashionable adjectives tend to come from specialised areas and then to win appeal on a broad front. The arts have given us adjectives like 'mimetic', 'aleatory', 'noir', and 'cathartic'. Medicine has given us 'chronic' and 'clinical'. The law has given us 'draconian' and 'forensic', as well as 'proven'.

"Oddly enough," says Oscar, "proven was never found outside Scotland till recently, in the Scottish verdict 'not proven', but it was then taken up by the world of advertising, which is always desperately looking for old-fashioned synonyms. Have you noticed the way 'cleanse' has replaced 'clean' in ads, for example? 'Cleanse'



MILES KINGDON  
"What we're after is an adjective which is ubiquitous and yet charismatic"

sounds more trustworthy, doesn't it? Sounds as if it gets deeper than mere 'cleaning', doesn't it? Simi-

larly, they have taken to using 'proven' because it sounds more solid than 'proved'. With proven cleansing qualities..."

"Of course, a lot of these words change their meaning when they become popular, like 'forensic' and 'clinical' - or should I say that people use them wrongly? People use the word 'forensic' as if it means something to do with laboratories or post-mortems, but it just means to do with the law. People use 'chronic' to mean 'terrible', even though it just means 'long-lasting'."

"Another source of potent adjectives is the sociological field. 'Disadvantaged', 'feminist', 'supportive' and 'aware' might get a look in, though all these things have a limited shelf life. Not as limited as slang adjectives, of course. I doubt whether we shall get many

votes from the young for 'awesome' or 'wicked' or 'cool' or 'mega', any more than we shall get votes from their parents for forgotten trendy adjectives like 'groovy' and 'fab' and 'heavy'."

Oscar Beussberger shudders slightly, perhaps at the thought of his own youth.

"Anyway, the way the poll works is this. You, Mr Kingdon, ask your readers to nominate their choice for the 10 adjectives which most encapsulate the 20th century..."

And then I pass the voting forms across to you?

"You can if you like. It won't make much difference, though. We at the ATP have already selected the 10 adjectives most symbolic of the century. It wouldn't do to leave it to the voters, would it? Can't really trust the public, can we?"

But surely, of all things, adjectives are things that are used by the public? So they should know

"Dear, oh dear, oh dear. That's like saying that cars are things used by the public, so they should know how to use them. But all road deaths are caused by the public!"

Hmm. So what are your pre-selected top ten adjectives?

"Got a list here somewhere," says Oscar Beussberger, searching his jacket pocket. "Yes, here we are. The top 10 typical 20th century adjectives are: Marxist, fascist, global, modern, genetic, corporate, gay, fat-free, user-friendly, carcinogenic and..."

And?

"Kafkaesque."

So that's it, then. At last, a millennial poll you don't have to vote in. It's all been settled for you.







## PANDORA

WHICH IS London's most bankable restaurant? Which chef would the metropolitan glitterati most want to come round and cater chez eux? A glittering dinner at the Berkeley in Mayfair this week provides pointers.

Philanthropic types from the arts, politics, media and business gathered there to raise funds for Leuka 2000, the Lord Mayor's Charity appeal. Guests at the £300-per-plate jamboree - including Peter Blake, Ed Victor, Chris Patten, Nicola Horlick, Ainsley Harriot (pictured) and Julian Barnes - didn't know which of the stellar cooks on hand would cater their table until the chef's card was plucked from a silver drum. Names in the frame included Albert Roux, the River Café's Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray, Shaun Gilmore of Vong, and Giorgio Locatelli of Zafferano.

After the nosh, the auction: each foodmeister had offered his or her services for a private dinner for eight, to be auctioned among the glitterati. The top bid was for Mark Edwards, head chef of Noma, the chic Japanese eatery attached to the Metropolitan Hotel. He'll be cooking for an anonymous bidder who forked out £4,500 for the pleasure. Philip Howard of The Square was in hot pursuit, snaring £3,200. When all was said and drunk, the host raised £120,000 for new leukaemia-treatment facilities at Hammersmith Hospital. Is this doing good by eating well?

A SPLIT is developing between the British and American Lockyerbie victims' families. The Brits are holding out for justice. But one faction within the American group is looking at pecuniary alternatives. Substantial Libyan assets are frozen in the US, and lawyers advising some of the families have told them that bringing the bombers to justice might eliminate their opportunities to litigate. Under proposals currently on the table, sanctions would be lifted for the duration of the trial, leaving the Libyans free to move their money offshore. No one would dispute the bereaved's right to bring this sorry 10-year saga to a resolution. But let's hope that American lawyers' obsession with damages won't deprive the families of their long-awaited chance for closure.

JERRY HALL is slow-playing her divorce from Mick Jagger. Word is that she's trimmed her bold bid for half of his £100m estate to a modest £10m - and may eventually elect to stay hitched. Her sister's brush with cancer, say the usual suspects, has put Jagger's totemic into perspective.

Meanwhile, here is the latest heinous tactic practised

by upscale couples heading for Splittville: an American female disenchanted with her rich spouse registered his surname as an Internet domain name - and then sold it back to him through a third party. It's enough to make a lawyer blush.

SCOTT CHISHOLM'S Scambusters slot on Talk Radio takes a harsh, Roger Cook-style stance against companies who have short-changed their customers. But one such stunt seems to have exploded in the Kelvin MacKenzie minion's face. A surprised guest was recently invited on to the show at 50 minutes' notice, necessitating an expensive 10-mile white-knuckle taxi ride through rush-hour London. A Talk Radio employee reassured the jaw-for-hire that the cab's cost would be added to the appearance fee. A few weeks later the guest received a cheque from the station for the princely sum of £5. To whom might one complain about such cavalier treatment? Scambusters?

THE PRODUCER pushing parliamentarians to watch *Four Corner Bays and a Buggy*, an advocacy video about teen pregnancy? One David Newborn.

IS THIS *The Independent's* youngest reader? Seven-year-old Nicholas Shaker, from Huddersfield, wrote in last week. The eagle-eyed Shaker noticed that his local football team was listed as lining up against Arsenal, when in fact the Gannons were scheduled to play Derby. "I will write back," warns the precocious Shaker in a crisp PS, "if I see one more mistake." Mindful of our younger readers' scrutiny, Pandora will immediately put her hands up to a glitch. A "Royal" mysteriously appeared yesterday where none was warranted: the hank getting into bed with questionable televangelist Pat Robinson is the Bank of Scotland. No Royal. No problem. And Master Shaker - no more chastisement, please.

Contact Pandora by e-mail at: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)



## Let's hear it for Melvyn and Cilla



HUNTER DAVIES

*Beryl Bainbridge is potty because today there is no prejudice against a regional accent*

THAT BERYL Bainbridge: what a caution, what a tease, rubbing the accent of Liverpool, which is where she comes from. Stirring it up, knowingly I'm sure, just as Germaine Greer does. Only Germaine takes longer, has more side turnings, uses longer words and more interesting references, but is just as potty.

Beryl got rid of her Liverpool accent by taking elocution lessons, and has not looked back. Sorry, back. Joan Bakewell didn't take elocution lessons, but got shot off her Stockport accent once she hit Cambridge. Hard to believe when you hear those dulcet tones that Sue Lawley is a lass from Dudley.

Strange how women of that generation did push up. An inferiority complex or just wishing to conform and be accepted? Can't think of any men of that generation who did anything similar. Melvyn Bragg, after a few drinks, can still sound like a lad from Wigan. John Birt has lost his overtly Liverpool accent, but is certainly not a posh. Alan Bennett still sounds Yorkshire and John Cole, Ulster. All of them, like Beryl, Joan and Sue, have pursued literary or media careers, without going posh.

Beryl is potty because today

there is no prejudice against a regional accent. The movement is the other way. In fact, I wonder if John Peel has actually taken elocution lessons in Scouse. He's a public school boy. Don't tell me he hasn't worked up that accent over the years.

Prince Edward has clearly been taking Essex elocution lessons. He's not there yet, but moving in that direction. It is now impossible to believe he is Prince Charles's

brother. The Queen is probably appalled by how he sounds. I bet Beryl is as well.

All the surveys show that today a Scottish accent is the most acceptable, followed by Geordie, Welsh and Irish. Bottom of the pack is Cockney, as they are still perceived as spivs. A Brum accent is thought to make you sound stupid. Scouse is also towards the bottom of desirable accents.

Scots are so confident, so pleased, so proud of their accent that you rarely find them changing it, except in the case of Malcolm Rifkind. His was more a case of strangulation than change. The Scots in the Cabinet today, such as Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Donald Dewar, have remained unmistakably Scottish, apart from Derry Irvine who sold out years ago when he became a London lawyer; though if you listen hard, you can still hear his. Hard to believe that Tony Blair was born in Scotland, brought up by Scots, and went to a Scottish school. But then he doesn't pretend to be Scottish. He considers himself English and Durham his home town.

I longed to have a Scottish accent, which both my parents had. We

moved to Carlisle when I was young, so I ended up with a Carlisle accent, which is nothing really; at least not identifiable. Hold on. Just thought of a woman of that generation who hasn't changed her accent - Bea Campbell. Her accent has got more northern with the years. I don't remember her talking like that when she was a girl in Carlisle.

When I came south in the Sixties and got a job on *The Sunday Times*, I did feel prejudiced against. It was all oak-panelled walls and everyone seemed to be southern and public school. I didn't think of elocution lessons, just of leaving and going somewhere else. All I seemed to do was ring up heads of Oxford colleges or bishops who couldn't understand my accent. I once went to Italy to interview a famous English writer, so famous I've forgotten his name. The minute I arrived at his house in Leric, he said: "which school did you go to?"

Then, suddenly, in the mid-Sixties everything changed. I never had to interview another Oxbridge tipshop. I was able to write about the really, really important people in Britain, such as Scousers who played guitars, scruffy Cockney photographers who had never been to school,

and artists who talked about drawing as if it had an "r" in the middle.

I remember once being up for a job with an Old Etonian of exactly my age and experience. I got it because prejudice had moved the other way. It was thought that a grammar school boy from the north must be somehow superior.

Things have evened up today. I like to think there is little prejudice either way, at least based on accents. Until Dear Beryl comes along, stirring things up again.

Not that it's totally gone away. Only this week I was personally attacked for being a northerner. The details don't matter, and the attacker was merely a second-rate novelist who went to a minor public school, but his form of ridicule was to call me "Oonter" and go on about how I enjoyed "faggots and mushy peas". I was amused, of course. Worralat, as Cilla might say. And also amused by Beryl. Did you notice that having attacked accents she went home to watch *EastEnders*?

I don't actually watch it, but some of my servants do, and when I have chance to walk through their living room it seems to me the accents in *EastEnders* are not London but Latvian. But I could be wrong.

## Every mixed race marriage is building a better Britain



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

*Lynchings, imprisonment and social exclusion will never stop individuals breaking racial barriers*

WE HAVE looked, for a good many days, at the poisonous worms of racism as the Lawrence inquiry team turned over the soil. The coverage of this event has been unprecedented. Usually black issues have their small, insignificant place in the scheme of things. Suddenly what happened to one young black man became a statement of who we are as a nation.

The only other event that provoked similar levels of engagement was the *Satanic Verses* saga. The white elite has never tried harder to understand how racism, crude as well as subtle, violent as well as polite, is an abomination.

But, as we Muslims say on the 40th day of mourning a beloved, it is enough for now. We come out of our white mourning clothes, often go to the park, smell the flowers and remind ourselves that there is much beauty left in the world.

There are many good stories to tell about how integration has occurred in spite of racism. In truth this real, day-to-day integration has surpassed our understanding of it. Look around. Trevor McDonald is the nation's favourite newsreader. The other day I went to Soho's Red Fort Indian restaurant and saw young English girls in velvet dresses lost as they watched live classical Indian dancing. Round the corner, in Soho Spice, young, even anorexic, trendies are eating Indian food as if it is suddenly cool. The Victoria & Albert Museum is putting on an exhibition of Sikh art, thanks to one of its curators, Dr Debbie Swallow, who is more passionately "Indian" than I shall ever be.

But by far the biggest story is that this country has almost the highest rate of interracial relationships and number of young, mixed-race people

anywhere in the Western world. More than half of British-born black men have a white partner, as do a third of Asian men. The rates for black and Asian women are rising. And prominent people in mixed marriages include Mr McDonald himself, Michael Caine, Lenny Henry and Dawn French, Baroness Scotland, Lord Taylor, Bernie Grant, Jemima Goldsmith, Salman Rushdie, Zeinab Badawi, Madhur Jaffrey, Sayeed Jaffrey, Jung Chang, Frank Bruno, Ainsley Harriot, Sharon Davies, Oona King, Hanif Kureishi, Sade.

This is not true of the United States these days, though it was in the heady days of the Sixties. A journalist from *The Washington Post* who came to interview our family last year was astonished at this aspect of British race relations, and equally surprised that we don't sing about it as loudly as we should. Could you sing "Coffee Coloured People" or "Ebony and Ivory" and not blush? He had a point. Getting any of the

famous people listed above to talk about this is impossible, perhaps because there is a prevailing coyness of silence.

Many white people don't wish to accept this reality because the Powellite nightmare of a nation polluting itself is still strong, if not often stated. A number of black, Asian and Jewish people are just as afraid. For them it is the fear of cultural annihilation. And the irony is that the more the fences are broken down by the irrepressible forces of lust and love, the less acceptance there seems to be of what is going on. We should have learnt by now that apartheid laws, lynchings, imprisonment, torture and social exclusion have never managed to stop individuals breaking down the barriers of race, religion and culture.

Read *Titus Andronicus* and you get the most modern debates on the identity of a mixed-race child. And in this country this has been going on since the 18th century. In the 17th and 18th centuries fashionable rich ladies liked to have slaves as ornaments, and black lovers in their beds. One of these, Soubise from St Kitts, was adored by the Duchess of Queensberry and was the toast of fashionable London. Some of the earliest race riots in this country, at the first of the 20th century, were over the number of white women having sexual relationships with black men. In 1930 an official report said: "Mixed race families have a low standard of life, morally and economically. It is practically impossible for half-caste children to be absorbed into our industrial life."

There will never be a speculative firm made about what Queen Victoria really did with her handsome Indian servant Abdul Karim, but she did have his portrait painted; their



Dawn French and Lenny Henry on their wedding day

MSI

letters were burnt by fussy officials after her death. In the Sixties, when free sex and false Indian gurus co-existed with rampant racism, mixed race relationships became the obsession of the media and others.

Last night I spent a glorious evening with Earl Cameron and Harry Baird, two black movie actors of their period. They talked about their roles in *Sophistic*, one of the first feature films about mixed-race relationships, and how "carefully" the intimacy between the two lovers had to be presented, and how nevertheless the audience left the cinema as if they had been at a funeral.

Well, it is not like that any more. Young mixed-race Britons are challenging all those who would rather they did not exist. They include the writer Jayne Ihekweazu, who has just written a marvellous book called *Scattered Belongings*, and stylish Chris Clevery, the youngest barrister in this country with his own

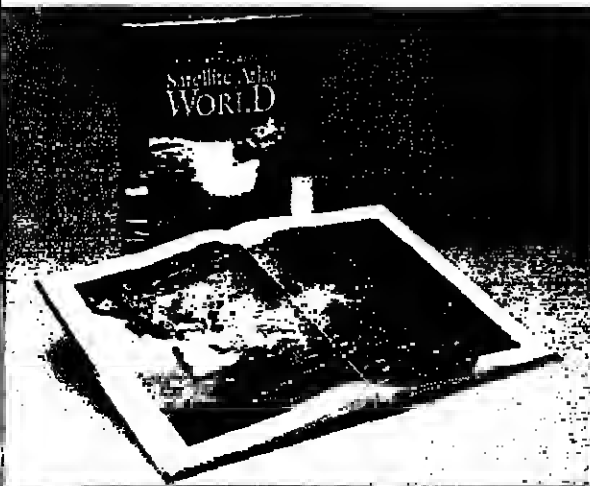
chambers, who cannot even understand my questions about the problems of being half-English and half-African. His heritage has been, he says, one of his biggest assets.

And this message is being passed on to the third and fourth generations in the most unexpected places. Such as hard old Bermondsey. At the Snowfield primary school, I saw some of the best teachers I have ever seen in my life, imparting to their tiny mixed-race pupils a proud sense of who they were and how they belong to this country. As they wrestled loudly with the words of "What a Wonderful World", I thought how this scene would upset Enoch Powell and his acolytes - it shows a far truer picture of modern Britain than the racist killing of a young black man.

The writer's documentary, *Beyond Black and White*, will be broadcast on Radio 4 on Friday at 11am

## THE INDEPENDENT

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## We must cherish knowledge again

IT IS, of course, especially gratifying to be giving a lecture as part of the celebration of the 150 years since the foundation of Bedford College, now an integral and integrated part of Royal Holloway.

So has it really been an age of enlightenment, the last 150 years? I suppose that, for women, the time when it seemed most obviously so was after the Second World War, when equality of opportunity, freedom from prejudice seemed almost absolute in the universities. Here, you must realise, I speak autobiographically, with my experience drawn from Oxford.

In Oxford at any rate there was, as far as I knew, no prejudice against women, and though our colleges were austere compared with the men's, and we tried to emulate (for example by establishing wine cellars) as far as we were able, we lived the kind of intellectual life of which Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and her sister Dame Millicent Fawcett, and Emily Davies, founder of Girton, could only dream.

Yet there still existed, just, a kind of collective memory of

the struggles of the past. In the college where I became a fellow, St Hugh's, perhaps because of a slightly rocky past, there were those who could remind us of our good fortune.

I remember being thankful, when my first two children were born, that we had called them, for good family reasons, Kitty and Felix, since my elderly colleagues could ask after them without embarrassment as though they were cats, to the keeping of which many of them were devoted.

Minor anxieties apart, I have no hesitation in saying that the Forties and Fifties constituted an age of enlightenment for everyone in the universities. We were free to pursue knowledge.

So how is it now, 50 years on? In many ways the pioneers were pleased. Since 1989 women have outperformed men at A-level. The number of women going on to higher education full-time increased, between 1990 and 1995, by 66 per cent, while the number of men increased by only 50 per cent.

Yet I have to express some doubts and anxieties, not about women, but about higher education in general.



PODIUM

BARONESS WARNOCK

*From the Fawcett Lecture delivered by the philosopher at Senate House, London*

In 1991 Douglas Hague, economist and once guru to Margaret Thatcher, published a pamphlet, *Beyond Universities: A New Republic of the Intellect*. He argued that the current stage of economic development is strongly based on the acquisition, analysis and transmission of information. Universities will find that they have to share or even give up their role as what he called the "repositories of information."

Instead, there will be increasing numbers of private companies set up specifically to collect, process and transmit information globally. This is what he calls the Knowledge Business.

Universities will thus be bypassed both by students and by those in research. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has recognised the threat posed by "for-profit providers of information", and noted that six companies, including Body Shop, British Aerospace and PricewaterhouseCoopers, have established or are about to establish corporate universities, in most cases entirely online, and with degrees or certificates at the end of their courses.

Can the universities, as teaching institutions or institutions of research, compete with such commercial companies, which make up the "knowledge business"?

The threat lies in the belief that information is all we need, or rather that "knowledge" and "information" are interchangeable concepts. "Information" is, of course, part of the vocabulary of cybernetics, and this vocabulary has entered

into our lives with extraordinary rapidity.

Many people think not only that the brain of an animal, any animal, is like a computer, not only that many of its workings can be modelled by a computer, but that it really is a computer.

Richard Dawkins, for example, in *The Blind Watchmaker*, wrote: "Molecules of living things are put together in much more complicated patterns than the molecules of non-living things, and this putting together is done following programmes, sets of instructions for how to develop, which the organisms carry round inside themselves. What lies at the heart of every living thing is not a fire, not warm breath, not a spark of life. It is information, words, instructions... to understand life, don't think about vibrant, throbbing gels and oozes. Think about information technology."

We should deliberately cultivate learning in its old sense, the sense in which it was identical with scholarship, and was the result of dedication and issued not in information, but in knowledge and understanding.



سدا من الاصل

# Dangerous lure of the wild



**JAN MORRIS**  
*Those gorilla-watchers paid a fearful penalty not for rashness, but for courage and intelligence*

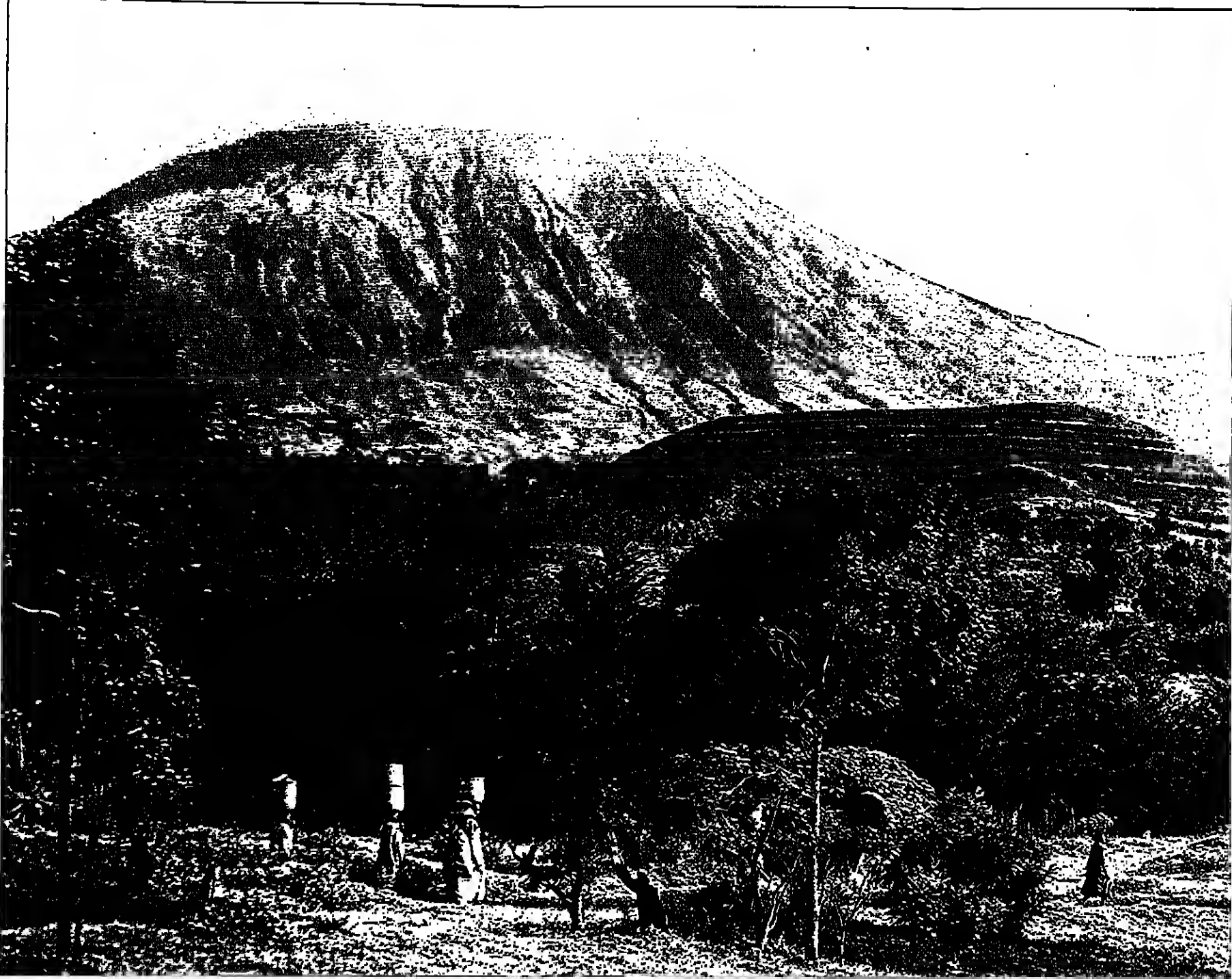
ONE SAD thing about the appalling events of this week in Uganda is the fact that they happened to the very best kind of travellers – the enterprising kind, the travellers with a purpose, the travellers of imagination who would rather see gorillas free in their own habitat than potter around a cruel zoo.

It was always so, of course. The bolder the wanderers, the more dangerous their journeys are likely to be, and the more ready they are to take risks. In a society obsessed with safety, in which a child may not climb a tree without an emergency harness or ride a kiddy-trike without a helmet, these are anachronistic attitudes; but the truth is that travel has always been a hazardous business, in one degree or another, and to a brave minority of our citizens (thank God) the chance of peril is an essential part of it.

The nation of wimps and grumblers complains now that the Foreign Office neglected to warn the public about the dangers of travelling in Uganda. But nobody in their senses would suppose that a journey into the darkest heart of Africa, land of the Hutus and the Tutsis, where the Uganda of ex-President Amin meets the Congo of ex-President Mobutu, would be like a trip to Benidorm. Those gorilla-watchers, I have no doubt, weighed up the risks in their own minds, and paid a fearful penalty not for rashness, but for courage and intelligence.

Can you imagine the great travellers of the past waiting for a Travellers' Advisory from Whitehall, still less listening to warnings from the US State Department? Their colossal journeys of adventure and exploration, across the Gobi Desert, up the awful Niger, into 'treacherous' and down nightmarish caverns, were undertaken in the very spirit of liberty, and were all too likely to end in death, ignominy or imprisonment in the rat-infested dungeons of malignant despots. Often they were undertaken in direct conflict with restraining bureaucracy; but what pale functionary could prevent a Gertrude Bell or an Isabella Bird from setting off on another hair-raising initiative?

Mind you, few of those tremendous travellers took unnecessary risks. There were unavoidable risks enough. Then, as now, you would be



Nobody would suppose that a journey into these hills on the Rwanda-Uganda border, lands of the Hutus and the Tutsis, would be like a trip to Benidorm

a fool to travel anywhere without taking pains beforehand to learn as much as possible about your destination. You could not learn much about the Valley of Assassins in Freya Stark's day, or about conditions in upper Dahomey in Richard Burton's, but there is no country in the world nowadays where conditions go unreported. With or without official recommendations, we all know that travelling in Chechnya, say, or Kosovo, or Yemen, or Sierra Leone, or Afghanistan, or upper Burma, is unlikely to be a bed of roses. For some, that's all the more reason for going there; for the rest, better go to Tenerife.

And who knows, even in Tenerife there may be mad camels on the run. Not even compulsory travel insurance can protect us against every hazard; not even the most im-

pressively multilingual tour guide can save off every tout.

It is up to travellers themselves to use their common sense, and their privilege of choice. If they want to enjoy the splendid frisson of a skulk through the kasbah, well and good. If they are not the skulking kind, let them join the rest of the group at tea-time; at least when poor Mr Rowbotham returns from the souk, ripped-off and resentful, they will have the pleasure of saying "Well, you were warned..."

Health warnings, safety warnings, Government warnings, medical warnings, warnings from park wardens and policemen and tour guides and counsellors – contemporary Britain lives in a state of having-been-warned. In my view we should be subject only to our own warnings. If, having been alerted to the disadvantages of tobacco or beef

on the bone, we decide to ignore the advice, that is our own business; and similarly in travel it is our own good sense and instinct that we should obey or disobey.

Good sense should surely tell us not to flaunt our wealth amid poverty, or to wave flags or to shout slogans amid other patriotisms, or get into ideological arguments in the blaze of tropical suns.

Instinct awakens us to signs from which even the boldest traveller usually finds it best to back away: the indefinable murmuring sense of threat, for instance, like the first hint of thunder, that heralds the start of a riot, or the feeling that your movements are being monitored by young men on motorbikes, or a sudden inexplicable profusion of policemen on the street, or the clatter of shop shutters dropping long before closing-time, or an

abrupt rushing of black cars through a city, hooting their horns.

Such are intimations of danger that everyone can sense; unless there is some powerful professional or political reason for banging around – to stand in defiance in front of a tank, say, or to get your report on to the nine o'clock news – even a Gertrude Bell or a Charles Stoddard of *The Great Game* (who ended up in a pit at Bokhara full of reptiles and decomposing matter) might then find it best to get the hell out of there.

But if at that moment an official from the Embassy were to tap Ms Bell or Colonel Stoddard on the shoulder and issued a Travel Advisory, I bet you that in a trice those two bravehearts would be off into the thick of things. It is in the nature of a free spirit to resent interference, however well-

intentioned, but in the Britain of today official interference is not merely welcomed, it is positively demanded.

What does that say about the survival of liberty? The cloudily powerful protective classes – the warden and the counsellors and the experts, encouraged by mollycoddling back-benchers and columnists, conspire to make us ever less self-reliant. How long will it be, I wonder, before Travel Advisories are made mandatory, and we are allowed to go only where officialdom thinks it's safe, or where there is no smoking? The best citizens, like the best travellers, are the free of spirit, the rebels, the outsiders, the sort who go to see gorillas in Uganda.

The only warning they need is a warning as old as travel itself (and life too, for that matter): *caveat viator* – let the traveller watch out!

## RIGHT OF REPLY

DERICK BINGHAM



**A Belfast pastor replies to remarks about God by Karen Armstrong, a former nun, in a recent interview**

KAREN ARMSTRONG in her interview with Paul Valley claimed that the God of history died for ever in Auschwitz. This theme of the death of God was raised by the Nobel prize-winning Jewish writer Elie Wiesel in his book *Night*, a hauntingly moving account of an experience he had as a 14-year-old boy in Auschwitz. The guards first tortured and then hanged a young boy. Just before the hanging Elie heard someone whisper "Where is God? Where is he?"

Thousands of prisoners had been forced to watch the hanging. Behind him Elie heard the same voice ask "Where is God now?" Elie then states, "I heard a voice within me answer him: 'Where is he? Here He is. He is hanging here on this gallows.'"

Elie spoke better than he knew. The whole Judeo-Christian position has always been that God is not immune to pain. Is it not written that in the early days of Israel's frightening bondage in Egypt, "in all their distress he too was distressed"? The Christian position has always been that Christ is primarily known as the "Man of Sorrows".

Whatever view is taken of the Christian position, it cannot be denied that its historic and central message is God on a cross. In a world filled with suffering, how could we worship a God who is immune to it? The cross of Christ is God's only self-justification in a world such as ours. As Edward Shilleto wrote, when shattered by the carnage of the First World War, "But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak and not a god has wounds but Thou alone."

His suffering makes ours more manageable. This is the God of history and the Christian message is not that He died at Auschwitz but that He died at Calvary and at Easter millions celebrate His Resurrection.

## The profits of boom and doom

### THURSDAY BOOK

**DEBT AND DELUSION: CENTRAL BANK FOLLIES THAT THREATEN ECONOMIC DISASTER**  
BY PETER WARBURTON  
ALLEN LANE/PENGUIN PRESS, £20



PLAY THE computer game Sim City and, as a benevolent dictator creating a town, you can raise funds two ways: either tax the citizens, or issue a bond. If you tax your residents too heavily, some will leave town; but issue too many bonds, and you find that the amount of taxes needed to pay off the interest explodes – your city will swiftly empty and crumble.

The creators of the software obviously share the Peter Warburton view of debt. His preface to his book advises readers to pay off all their loans and mortgages, and his conclusion urges them to spread their savings and investments around to safeguard against the bank failures he confidently predicts will take place this year. Indeed, he urges the Government to run an advertising campaign with the slogan: "Lost your home in '89? Don't lose your shirt in '99." That, and plan for emergency powers to maintain public order in the wake of catastrophic financial failures.

Unlike many books warning of impending catastrophe and the collapse

of capitalism, *Debt and Delusion* has the great merit of being written by an economist. It contains evidence and argument rather than relying on breathless prose alone. Peter Warburton is a prominent City pundit and has worked in the City since 1975. So when somebody like this warns that the stock market is massively overvalued and banks have lent ludicrously large amounts to uncreditworthy borrowers, it would be silly not to pay attention.

The basic argument is actually very familiar. It is that increasing financial sophistication, particularly in the use of derivatives, has obscured excessive risk-taking. The bottom line is that government, corporate and per-

sonal indebtedness has grown unsustainably since the mid-1990s. The longer it takes before the reckoning comes, the more cataclysmic the shock to the financial system will be. Now derivatives – those odd things that nobody outside the financial markets, and very few inside, really understand – have often been blamed for cataclysm and crisis. They brought down Barings Bank and bankrupted Orange County, California. They have inspired jolly books with self-explanatory titles like *FLA.S.C.O.* and *Apocalypse Roulette*. Because derivatives are essentially rearrangements of shares and bonds, they can be either more or less risky than the underlying investments; and the presumption is that, because they are harder to understand, they are therefore riskier.

As Warburton puts it: "When the next global bear market in equities and bonds arrives, the unwinding of highly geared derivatives positions will trigger financial explosions in every corner of the developed world." Translation: when share prices everywhere start falling, financial institutions will make huge losses on the large-scale bets they have placed via derivatives using borrowed money. Some banks will fail, causing panic and calamity among ordinary people who wouldn't know a derivative from a digestive biscuit.

The trouble with doom and gloom like this is that it makes such extreme claims. Logically, it could be right, but it is hard to know what odds to put on



Alan Greenspan of the US's Federal Reserve Bank

it. Last summer saw a world financial crisis when, after a year of turmoil in Asia, Russia defaulted on its foreign borrowing. This set off a chain of financial reactions that bankrupted Long Term Capital Management, a speculative investment fund. Barclays was one of the banks that had invested its – our – money in LTCM. For a while, some bits of the financial markets stopped functioning altogether; it was not possible for sellers of some investments to find buyers at any price.

Yet, while the crisis made clear the depth of the abyss at whose brink the financial system tottered, the plunge into chaos never came. The central banks blamed in this book for their foolish tolerance of financial gambling managed to stabilise within a few weeks what was clearly the most serious crisis the system has faced for a generation. I find this rather cheering, but it obviously alarms Peter

Warburton. He is not so confident they could carry on sorting out the problems a Wall Street crash would cause.

There is a good parallel in the Millennium Bug problem. It is a bit alarmist to believe that computers will fail catastrophically when the clock ticks past midnight on 31 December. But, on the other hand, there is no harm in not being airborne at the time and in stocking up on a few extra candles just in case. Likewise, a worldwide financial meltdown is pretty unlikely, but there is no harm in arranging one's affairs to cope with one, should it occur.

Readers might like to know, therefore, that the maximum amount in a bank or building society account protected by the government's deposit protection scheme is 90 per cent of 20,000 euros (or about £13,000). Oh yes, and the value of shares can go down as well as up.

DIANE COYLE

### THURSDAY POEM

**SKYLARK FEVER**  
BY PHILIP CALLOW

I miss only this:  
the bare skylark field  
where we used to walk

under huge skies  
towards the stream of wheels  
buzzing downhill

High overhead

a glad speck  
showering us with joy

fine thread

the high bubbling  
of a lost spring  
waking us  
to what we are

Philip Callow's new collection, *Nightshade and Morning Glory*, is published at £5.95 by Redbeck Press, 24 Aireville Road, Frizinghall, Bradford BD9 4HH

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# Dusty Springfield

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD was one of the finest singers to emerge from the froth and bubble of the Swinging Sixties. In many ways she epitomised the sound and style of the era. Yet her unique voice, powerful, sensual and rich in passion, had a timeless quality that has proved appealing to new generations of fans.

A contemporary of Sandie Shaw, Cilla Black and Lulu, Springfield was determined to elevate the craft of pop singing by careful choice of material. Her affinity for soul music enabled her to imbue her own singing with its values, without resorting to mere shouting and screaming. She admired the great American performers like Aretha Franklin and Gladys Knight and was selflessly keen to promote their work. However, Dusty Springfield, more than the other girls who put their stamp on the Sixties, had a unique power and maturity. This enabled her to interpret songs by composers like Burt Bacharach and Carol King with such force they became definitive versions.

Even now you only have to mention songs like "I Only Want To Be With You", "I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself" and "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me" and it's possible to hear Dusty's voice, sometimes strident, sometimes delicate, her character imprinted on every note.

Dusty, with her blond beehive hair-do and heavy "Panda" eye make-up was an instantly recognisable celebrity, an icon of the black-and-white Sixties. Yet many saw this image as a mask to conceal an awkward, insecure woman who needed to be reassured. In fact she was quite capable of defending herself, as critics and detractors soon found. When interviewed in *Music Maker* magazine in 1966 she was described as Britain's most powerful answer to the soul sound then sweeping the nation. "Dusty is that rare bird - a singer who knows music well, a singer who has to believe in a song before recording it. A singer with soul. Her reputation in music circles can be summarised in three words: 'Anything WONT do!'"

It was Springfield's determination to extract high standards from her backing musicians, and to brook no nonsense or interference from promoters - and occasionally waiters in restaurants - that earned her notoriety as a "troublemaker". When cakes and drinks went flying at pop parties and awards ceremonies, it was usually Dusty getting stuck into the mayhem with an enthusiasm that would have won approval from Oasis. She hit the front page of the *Daily Mirror* when she threw a cake at a waiter whose manner she didn't like, at the Melody Maker Poll Awards. But her pranks were usually good-humoured, like her ability to mimic her favourite radio comics the Goons.

The combination of high spirits and high ideals made her good company and good copy. Dusty Springfield was hardly ever out of the

headlines during her six years at the top and she seemed destined to become one of the great, perennial performers. This made her slow fade into obscurity during the Seventies all the more distressing. There were some signs of a revival in her fortunes, but the glory days were over. She was born Mary O'Brien, in Hampstead, north London, in 1939. She and her elder brother Dion began singing together as children in their parents' garage, where they made their earliest tape recordings. When Mary left school she carried on singing harmonies with her brother, who had begun performing at local folk clubs.

In 1957 the pair gained further experience singing at Butlin's holiday camps. Mary later joined a vocal group, the Lana Sisters, who made some records and backed the singer Al Saxon. In 1959 she returned to work with Dion who had in the meantime teamed up with Tim Field. A pleasant spring day and Tim's surname inspired a suitable name for the new trio - the Springfields. It seemed opportune to adopt stage names. Dion became Tom Springfield and Mary was now Dusty Springfield. The group became very

popular on the club circuit with their folk-fingered style and in 1961 were signed to Philips Records.

The Springfields had Top Five hits with "Island of Dreams" (1962) and "Say I Won't Be There" (1963). They also enjoyed American success with "Silver Threads and Golden Needles" which got to No 20 in September 1962 and went straight to No 1 in Australia. The Springfields thus spearheaded the so-called "British Invasion" before the Beatles. In July 1963 they had their last hit with "Come On Home" which peaked at No 31. The group broke up in September 1963 after a farewell show at the London Palladium.

In the aftermath Tom Springfield concentrated on writing while Dusty launched her solo career in fine style with "I Only Want To Be With You"

by Ivor Raymonde and Mike Hawker. It went straight to No 4 in the UK in January 1964 and No 12 in the US.

In a burst of activity Springfield recorded her first solo album, went on tour with bands like the Searchers and the Tremeloes, and then collapsed from overwork. But artists lived or died by issuing a steady stream of singles. Her follow-up, "Slay Awhile", came out in February and got to No 13 in the UK. Then came a trip to the US to appear on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Her debut album, *A Girl Called Dusty*, appeared in April 1964. One of the tracks was "Wishin' and Hopin'", her next US hit, which got to No 6. Her next UK smash was "I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself", followed by "Losing You" which was written by Tom Springfield.

From 1965 to 1968 Dusty Springfield was rarely out of the charts. On "In the Middle of Nowhere", she was backed by Doris Troy and Alan Price. After "Some of Your Lovin'" and "Little By Little" came "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me", her biggest hit, which sold a million and got to No 1 in March 1966. An Italian ballad with English lyrics, it was revived by Elvis Presley in 1970.

Springfield never had another chart topper, but many more fine performances followed, including "Going Back", "All I See Is You" (1966), "I'll Try Anything", "Give Me Time" (1967) and "I Close My Eyes and Count To Ten" (1968).

She seemed to be enjoying her success. But periodic dust-ups hit the headlines. In December 1964 she was invited to tour South Africa. Although clearly against apartheid, she agreed to go, but refused to perform before segregated audiences. In the row that ensued she was deported back to Britain. This drew some criticism from British showbiz artists including Derek Nimmo, who felt that Springfield was needlessly offending prospective employers. She offered them only a sharp rebuke, later describing Nimmo as "a prat".

In 1965 she appeared on the *Royal Variety Show* and headlined her own UK tour as well as embarking on a ceaseless round of cabaret, club and television shows. Occasionally she blew her top. The



Springfield: an icon of the black-and-white Sixties

Buddy's. She climbed a ladder outside the theatre to alter the sign. He called her a name and she whacked him one!

Springfield, says Altham, had a vulnerable, childlike quality.

She was rather like Marilyn Monroe in that sense. She was quite humble about her singing and really didn't think she was any good. But of all the Sixties girls she was the best and had a very special talent. She later led a rather lonely, isolated existence and I thought it was a big mistake to duck out of the public eye when she went to live in America. She just seemed to lose all her confidence.

Springfield toured the world in 1967 performing in cabaret in London, New York, Australia and Japan. That same year her third album, *Where Am I Going*, included versions of Bobby Hebb's "Sunny" and Aretha Franklin's "Don't Let Me

Lose This Dream". She was voted Best Female Vocalist in the *New Musical Express* annual awards for five successive years, and she was given her own BBC television show on which she cheerfully introduced such favoured guests as Jimi Hendrix, Tina Turner and Scott Walker.

In 1968 she switched from Philips to Atlantic Records and in September cut an album in Memphis. Using American musicians, Springfield found the funky backing sound she had always wanted. These sessions produced the celebrated *Dusty In Memphis* album which featured tunes by Randy Newman, Goffin & King and Bacharach-David. It also included the last of her big hits, "Son of a Preacher Man". Released in December 1968, it got to No 9 in the UK

and No 10 in the US. Many years later the song was featured on the soundtrack to the 1994 Tarantino movie *Pulp Fiction*.

Springfield relocated to America in 1970 and thereafter recorded only sporadically and received practically no recognition in Britain. An interview she gave to the *London Evening Standard* in 1975, in which she hinted at her sexual orientation, resulted in a cooling of popularity at home. Certainly she found the intrusion into her private life unpleasant.

She said later: "I have been extremely hurt by people saying things about me. I have a certain pride in myself as a woman and it upsets my femininity. I can't stand to be thought of as a big butch lady. I've done nothing wrong and I refuse to invent a relationship to appease people."

By now her health was poor and she suffered from depression. Moving to Los Angeles, she spent more time campaigning for animal rights than recording. She bought a house on Laurel Canyon and tried to fit into the suburban scene. "It was sort of nouveau riche," said Springfield. "The trouble was - I was not very nouvelle and not very riche."

In 1973 she signed with ABC-Dunhill and recorded her eighth album, *Comee*, and released the singles "Who Gets Your Love" and "Learn To Say Goodbye". They weren't a success. "I felt totally alien in Los Angeles," she said. "I wasn't proud of the sounds coming from my throat. I didn't think I could tell what the good songs were any more. When things started to go wrong, I got depressed and lost a couple of years."

Between 1974 and 1977 she did no recording at all and began to drink heavily. Then she took a grip and started to piece her life together. She even took singing lessons. However, "comebacks" in the late Seventies and early Eighties failed to take off. She needed a kick start to her career. Help came from an unlikely source. In 1987 she was invited to London record with the Pet Shop Boys. The result was her first chart appearance in years when she guested with Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe on their single "What Have I Done To Deserve This?", a No 2 hit in both the UK and the US. "That was a watershed in my life," she said.

Springfield hadn't known who the Pet Shop Boys were but liked their "West End Girls" when she heard it on the radio. She didn't know quite what the group wanted, but Tennant explained they just wanted to hear that husky, breathy voice. She later went on to record "Nothing Has Been Proved", the Pet Shop Boys' theme tune to the 1989 movie *Scandal* - for which Springfield made her first promo video.

Springfield now came back from California to live in England with her cat, Nicholas. Her return was celebrated with a BBC biography *Dusty*, screened in May 1994. A new album, *A Very Fine Love*, was released in 1995 and showed her singing as well as ever. Then, just after she had completed recording, she was diagnosed as suffering from breast cancer and she had to undergo chemotherapy at the Royal Marsden Hospital. She said: "I remember crying, thinking, I haven't got time to be ill."

In February 1998 she suffered a recurrence of breast cancer. Her illness turned out to be "a learning curve", she said. "It's a long time since being a star was the most important thing to me. I don't need to be adored, to hear that applause. If I never heard it again, I would still be fine."

CHRIS WELCH

Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O'Brien (Dusty Springfield, singer; born London 16 April 1939; OBE 1998; died Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire 2 March 1999.

## Professor Allan Maccoll

ALLAN MACCOLL was a distinguished academic well-known for his applications of physics to chemical problems. He was an Australian who spent over 50 years of his working life in London.

His chief scientific legacy comes from the Fifties and Sixties, when he established the surprising fact that in chemical reactions in gases in which one component of a molecule is eliminated there can be an intermediate stage in which the separation of electrical charges is important. He enlarged our understanding of chemical processes in gases into a comprehensive scheme that is largely unchallenged after 40 years. His work adds to the fundamental basis of knowledge from which technological advances arise.

Maccoll was born in Edinburgh in 1914. His family migrated to Australia when he was eight. They lived in the Sydney seaside suburb of Manly with its famous beaches and outdoor opportunities. He became a weekend surf lifesaver and represented Sydney University in water polo. Throughout his life he remained unmistakably Australian; he was gregarious, robust, genial and a bon vivant. He graduated from Sydney with first class degrees in Mathematics and Chemistry, and was appointed lecturer there as a very young man.

After the Second World War he was one of the first winners of the ICI and Turner and Newall Research Fellowships awarded to overseas students for postgraduate research. At this time there were no PhD programmes in Australia, and graduate students almost without exception were attracted to Britain. He arrived in 1945 with his wife Margaret, an economist, and joined Sir Christopher Ingold, one of the greatest chemists of the century, in his laboratories in University College London.



Maccoll: 50 years at UCL

Allan Maccoll liked to tell of his reception in London. The illustrious and fully occupied Professor Ingold took immediate personal charge of the new boy, showing him the worst and the best of what there was left of the college after the 1941 bombings - the space where Physics had been, the near-destroyed library, the dreary and ill-maintained Department of Chemistry and finally, with pride, the *genius loci*, the autograph of Jeremy Bentham, seen as the founding father of the university. The tour concluded with a glass of exceedingly weak post-war ale.

Maccoll's quality was quickly recognised; soon after completing his PhD he was appointed to the teaching staff and became the leader of the group of young chemists whom Ingold selected to restore the departmental research effort after a disruptive move to Aberystwyth and Bangor during the war. He rose through the academic grades, becoming professor in 1963. He spent his entire career in London at UCL. He was active in college and university affairs, serving on the Senate and Academic Council of the university in the years 1965-74.

He had taken to University College a research project stemming from his first work in Sydney with Thomas Iredale. It was to study the speed of a class of chemical reactions taking place in gases. Visitors to the laboratory he now set up saw a formidable apparatus spread across an entire laboratory wall. An enthusiastic Maccoll explained that it was centred on a reaction vessel containing the target gas. This vessel was joined to a complex array of glass tubing that allowed gases to be fed in and drawn out and the pressure measured. The construction was itself a technical feat of glass-blowing that few could have managed. Conclusions were built on large numbers of precise measurements of reaction rates made over months.

Following indications that were at first tenuous, then more and more inescapable, Maccoll showed that, against all received wisdom, some well-known reactions involved pulling apart electrical charges, and he developed a unified theory that brought together reactions in the gas and in solution in a single explanatory framework. It has proved a durable accomplishment.

Maccoll was one of the first in Britain to exploit the mass spectrometer in organic chemistry. In the mass spectrometer molecules are hit by fast electrons. Typically they become positively charged and break into fragments. The fragments are spread into a spectrum according to their masses and electric charges and can be identified.

His central purpose was to find the steps the original molecule took in its passage to the final fragments. He worked with instrument manufacturers in solving the technical problems of getting low-energy electron beams of precisely defined energy, doing less damage to the molecules and making easier the detective work of relating

fragments to original targets. He thus illuminated fragmentation processes in broad classes of molecules. The achievement was recognised by the award in 1988 of the first Aston medal of the British Mass Spectrometry Society.

Maccoll's influence on mass spectrometry was great. He was the founding editor of the journal *Organic Mass Spectrometry*, which was of high importance in turning mass spectrometry from a poorly understood analytical art into a soundly based discipline. In the Sixties and Seventies he rarely missed a conference; his mastery of the subject and his gently phrased but incisive comments were looked for and respected.

He had many research students from developing countries and was sensitive and sympathetic to their problems of science education. He took the opportunity given by London University's scheme of Special Relationship to lecture in Ibadan, Ghana, Makerere, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Rhodesia, and for the British Council in countries of Eastern Europe, Chile and Venezuela.

Allan Maccoll made his contribution to chemistry through the originality of his research, but those who were lucky enough to have been his colleagues and his friends will remember him for his generous spirit, *bonhomie* and loyalty, and for his pride in and devotion to the institution he served.

DAVID CRAIG

Allan Maccoll, physical chemist; born Edinburgh 25 July 1914; Lecturer in Chemistry, University College London 1947-53; Reader 1953-63; Professor of Chemistry 1963-81 (Emeritus); Editor-in-Chief *Organic Mass Spectrometry* 1969-81; married 1940 Margaret Riley (two daughters); died Claygate, Surrey 16 February 1999.

## John Casson

JOHN CASSON, like most writers, always needed a day job. The art is to find employment compatible with your off-duty vision. After various attempts, including a stint as a fountain pen salesman, he found his niche in the quondam BBC World Service newsroom at Bush House. "Day job", given the shift system, in fact involved evenings, and sometimes nights.

Around this routine, for some 22 years, the 6ft 5in son of a Rotherhithe docker built a quiet, modest life in different parts of London, mainly south of the river. On his days off or before coming into work for a late shift, he wrote his radio plays, some of which were broadcast on Radio 4.

It is only a slight exaggeration to say that his entire writing life involved radio plays, a medium which, as Samuel Beckett and the pre-television Goons well understood, honours the imagination as no other. Casson had one play performed in a pub theatre but the retinal aspect took away from the absolute simplicity and poetical purity of his aural imaginings.

Casson's plays never had more than three or four characters and usually deployed south London vil-

lains, boxers, tipsters and other working-class types. Menace, betrayal, disappointment, grief, communication failure, survival: these were his themes.

In *Strawberry and Vanilla*, his last play (inexplicably turned down by Radio 4), an old Jewish couple are at the beach on holiday. He sent me this play, a new departure in terms of language register, for comment, and we had an instructive discussion about his use of Yiddish inversions in English. Not until the very end of the play does the old wife admit to her husband that she has cancer.

Casson wrote the play before he discovered his own lung cancer. "The bastard," he called it, and his friends and partner Lesley, a diminutive photographer (mind you, even his six-foot friends were diminutive beside him) were privileged to witness his brave but ultimately unavailing struggle against a heavyweight opponent without gloves.

He was a radio playwright pure and simple. Nor were there any satellite activities such as book reviewing, translation, art criticism, obituaries: nothing but his art, his private life and his day job. Casson was not a journalist in the newsroom. He started out as a typist, and then progressed to shift-leader typist or "clerk", ending up as the newsroom manager, a sergeant-major figure between the service staff and the journalists, and between the journalists and the management.

His performance on the day job was a class act, an art form. Connoisseurs of how to get through the day in an office when you would rather be at home writing plays - observed a man who did his assigned tasks well above the level of competence required but whose every word, every inflection, every movement, was an implicit and entertaining critique of his situation. He would tease his interlocutor

and himself by playing at being himself, by playing himself. In effect this quintessential member of the support staff had the leading role in one of his own plays, with senior journalists and presenters as walk-on parts as well as audience.

Something else, too, was going on: big John was (unconsciously?) rehearsing speech rhythms and reactions, in order to recycle them in his plays. At the same time the consummate manufacturer of highly inflected rhythmic speech could not but display his artistic skills in daily life, and in this he had an advantage over newspaper poets, novelists, painters and other "double-lifers" in the pre-Brit newsroom.

Like the painter of *Las Meninas* in the Prado, Casson was always one move ahead of the cast. If you dared to build an awareness of his behaviour into your reaction, he would trump you. If you spotted the trump card the game would continue in the bar and even on the phone after work, a Velasquezian series of reflecting mirrors. Had Casson been real Marrano, he would have outwitted Torquemada.

You couldn't miss the big fellow, painfully thin even in health, a lantern-jawed cheroot-smoking individual who was not particularly happy, but whose life was full of meanings. He had a deep understanding of human foibles, and a brilliant ear for their expression, both in the office and in his real work.

John Casson insisted on entering a hospice in order to give his loved companion a break, and died a few days later.

ANTHONY RUDOLF

John Casson, radio playwright and newsroom manager; born London 29 July 1937; married 1960 Gwen Arrenberg (two daughters; marriage dissolved 1983); died London 1 March 1999.



Casson: one move ahead

JP 11/10/150



# Callum Macdonald



Macdonald inspecting a title-page proof for Iain Crichton Smith's first collection of poems, *The Long River*, 1955. The printer/publisher's daughter Ann Marie, with him, had handset the book.

IN 20-odd years after the Second World War, Scottish literary culture went through a curious agony. The last firms representing the great era when Edinburgh had vied with London as a publishing centre still had headquarters in the city, where a stupendous International Festival of the arts was launched in 1947. But Scottish writers of poetry and serious fiction were paupers at the feast. "Lallans verse" was the butt of facetious London literati. The great MacDiarmid was alive and flourishing, but his poetry was only scantily in print. In a review article in *New Society*, a typically short-lived periodical, printed in 1961, Edwin Morgan asked, "When are the leading Scottish publishers going to do something about modern Scottish poetry?"

He went on to notice three pamphlets self-published from Edinburgh addresses – and two items produced by M. Macdonald, printer and publisher, in that city. He praised "Malcolm" Macdonald for his struggle "to keep Scottish poetry in print".

A potent mythological *Gestalt* shows MacDiarmid, Norman MacCaig and Rodney Girdle Smith smoking away together over many whiskies in Milne's Bar at the intersection of Rose Street and Hanover Street in the centre of Edinburgh and somehow creating the waves which buoyed up a Literary Renaissance. It is true that Robert Garioch was usually present, and that Tom Scott, George Mackay Brown and Alan Bold did join them on occasion, though in fact MacDiarmid was rarely in town and the others were as likely to be in the Abbotsford. It is also true that Callum Macdonald would often quietly be the company.

It was he who persuaded MacCaig to cease to be "MacCaig". He published Iain Crichton Smith's first slim volume of poems, then, decades later, the collected poems of Garioch, and of his fellow Gael Derick Thomson. When he set up *Lines Review* in 1982, MacDiarmid, Sorley MacLean, MacCaig and Girdle Smith were on its editorial board.

But the first editor of *Lines* was Alan Riddell, an Australian Scot recently associated with Alexander Trocchi in founding the avant-garde, internationalist magazine *Merin* in Paris. That orbited with Beckwith and Neruda. Macdonald's booklet was never parochial. He was a man of wide vision, not a Milne's Bar groupie. A reserved, dignified Gael, he stood, fag and glass in hand, on the verge of many a literary gathering, where, with his immaculate suit and tie, he might have passed for a modest Highland draper accidentally present, but was actually a subject of awe among those who knew how devoutly he had obeyed his ruling passion for poetry, so that, while he was a shy man himself, others felt shy in his presence.

Behind his courteous mien was a spirit which stood for no half measures. He worked ferociously hard himself and demanded equal commitment from others. Incorrigibly generous, he could not tolerate the sight of anyone's empty glass. He despised filter-tip cigarettes and stuck with high-tar Virginia. Trevor Royle, a distinguished editor of *Lines* in the Eighties, recalls how packages from Macdonald Printers always announced their arrival with a strong whiff of tobacco.

Macdonald was born in 1912 on the island of Bernera, off the west coast of Lewis, and grew up in a Gaelic-speaking community. Because it produced so many ministers, his branch of Clan Donald

was nicknamed "Knox". Throughout his life, "Callum Knox" reread the Bible in Gaelic. Via the illustrious Nicolson Institute in Stornoway, he progressed to Edinburgh University, where he was an enthusiastic and talented student of history. He married Williamina ("Winnie") Ross, from Harris, in 1934, a union which produced six children.

Before the war, he lived in London, where the Callum market lobsters for Highland fishermen. His war service in the RAF, in which he rose to be Squadron Leader, took him to Iceland and Gibraltar. Afterwards, owning a stationer's shop in Edinburgh, he taught himself

to a complete halt in the Sixties, new imprints of distinction gradually emerged – Canongate, Polygon. There are now five publishers operating in Edinburgh with good lists of new books of poetry. It is most unlikely that any fresh poet of great talent will fail to achieve the decisive first slim volume. The dearth of the Fifties and Sixties must seem almost inconceivable to people who weren't alive at the time.

The day Callum Macdonald died, Christopher Harvie was launching his latest collection of essays about Scotland in *Thin's Bookshop*, by Edinburgh University. After his speech was finished, an assistant stepped forward with a telephone message from Tessa, apologising for her absence and explaining why Harvie called for a minute's silence. Then more wine was poured and conversation flowed, as Callum would surely have wished.

Perhaps some of that throng, politicians and historians, were not aware of his contribution. But the small burn which sprang from Callum Macdonald's friendship with MacDiarmid and Girdle Smith has swollen and has joined and fed the substantial river which has carried us to the Holyrood Parliament and towards a millennium which in Scotland, so to speak, will be rather peculiarly "new".

ANGUS CALDER  
Malcolm (Callum) Macdonald, printer and publisher: born Bernera, Isle of Bernera 4 May 1912; MBE 1992; married 1934 Winnie Ross (died 1986; three sons, two daughters, and one daughter deceased); 1989 Tessa Ross; died Peebles 24 February 1999.

*A reserved, dignified Gael, fag and glass in hand at a literary gathering he might have passed for a modest Highland draper, but was actually a subject of awe*

## HISTORICAL NOTES

ROB RYAN

### A city built round lavatory bowls

RARELY CAN a catastrophic fire have been as welcome as the one which engulfed downtown Seattle on 6 June 1889. Strangely, not a single person died in the conflagration, which was caused by an overturned pot of flaming glue. The glue was in a paint store, and the immediate reaction of the storeman – to throw a bucket of water over the adhesive, which caused the initial explosion – was, perhaps, foolhardy.

John Beck, the bucket-thrower, helped initiate the process of converting a pestilent, sewage-filled cess-pit into the outdoor-loving, caffeine-fuelled, Fraser-obsessed Pacific-rim port of today.

Seattle had not been well sited. The original settlers in the 1850s positioned this would-be waterborne trading post adjacent to waters too shallow for shipping, so it was quickly shifted across the bay to its present site. However, the new Seattle was soon thriving as a centre of timber and coal production but had problems of its own – the wooden buildings were tidal in nature, and this played havoc with the primitive sewage system.

The only way a person could use the lavatory in the city when, after 13 hours, the fire was finally brought under control, and immediately set about rebuilding, in brick. They also raised the town to the level of the lavatory bowls, by building the whole city one storey higher, on top of the charred remains.

This meant that for a good number of years the new roads were at a higher level than the storefronts, which remained subterranean, accessed by ladders, but an increasing number of deaths caused by people falling down the unadorned holes where the pavement should be (7 died in all) meant that in the early part of this century the pre-fire city was sealed up once and for all.

Well, not quite. They didn't fill it in, but in most places simply covered it over. So the original framework of streets, the skeletal remains of shops, hotels, whore-houses and saloons remains down there. Some of the areas were used by bootleggers during prohibition to store their booze, then, in the 1980s, the city's impressive bus tunnels with their grand, shiny, almost Stalinist stations, were built within the old remains, destroying some of the subterranean fabric.

However, even today you can take guided tours through a small part of this underground reminder of Seattle's somewhat more salacious past, from Doc Maynard's Public House on Pioneer Square. This is a Penny Dreadful experience, which tends to concentrate on the lives of the ladies who moved to Seattle to pleasure the loggers and miners and graphic descriptions of the plumbing problems caused by those high tides.

But despite the "Carry On Seattle" tone, it is worth the few dollars to take the tour, because as you slip beneath the pavements and leave the Starbucks and Timberland signs behind, and take those first few breaths of fetid air, you, too, might feel like Alice slipping down a very curious rabbit-hole indeed.

Rob Ryan is the author of *Underdogs* (Headline, £9.99)

## Damages not precluded by failure to notify

AN EMPLOYER'S common law right to damages for breach of contract was not removed by its failure to notify a contractor of defects in building work within the time limit specified in clause 2.5 of the JCT form for Minor Building Works.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Mr and Mrs Baxter against a preliminary ruling that they had no cause of action against the respondent builders, in respect of defects in the works which had not been notified to the builders within the contractual liability period.

The works were carried out under a contract in the JCT form for Minor Building Works. A certificate of practical completion and a penultimate certificate valuing the works at £35,442.80 excluding VAT were issued by the architect. The net sum payable under the certificate after allowing for earlier payments was £3,919.23 excluding VAT. The plaintiffs issued proceedings in the county court in respect of that and other amounts.

The district judge directed that four preliminary issues, all of which raised questions as to whether the defendants could rely in their defence to the claim on alleged defects and omissions in the works, be determined. As a result of the decision of the House of Lords in *Beaufort Developments (NI) Ltd v Gilbert-Ash (NI) Ltd* [1999] 2 All ER 778 it was conceded that two of those issues were no longer relevant.

The remaining issues were whether the defendants retained a cause of action in respect of defects which had become apparent during or before the defects liability period, but which had not been notified to the plaintiffs until long after that period had expired; and whether or not the plaintiffs were entitled to summary judgment under Order 9, rule 14 of the County Court Rules.

Clause 2.5 of the JCT form provided:

Any defects, excessive shrinkages or other faults which appear within [six months] ... of the date of practical completion and are due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the contract or frost occurring before practical completion shall be made good by the contractor entirely at his own cost unless the architect shall otherwise instruct. The architect shall certify the date when in his opinion the contractor's obligations under this clause 2.5 have been discharged.

The Recorder ruled that clause 2.5 made it a condition precedent for the right to recover damages that the building owner has notified the building contractor of patent defects within the six-month liability period.

The defendants appealed, contending, in reliance on the decision in *William Tomkinson and Sons Ltd v the Parochial Church Council of St Michael*

## THURSDAY LAW REPORT

4 MARCH 1999

Pearce & High Ltd v Baxter and another  
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Tuckey and Mr Justice Hadden)  
15 February 1999

1990 CLJ 319, that the judge had erred.

Martin Gibson (James S. Barnett, Hungerford) for the plaintiffs; Michael Datcha (Morrison & Masters, Swindon) for the defendants.

Lord Justice Evans said that, on the true construction of clause 2.5, "defects [etc] which appear" was a description of those defects to which the clause applied. Whilst the clause gave the contractor a right during the six-month period to make good the defects at his own expense and a licence to enter the property for that purpose, and also gave the employer a right to require the contractor to return to remedy the defects, it did not remove the common law right of the employer to employ another party and to recover damages for breach of contract.

Where, however, the contractor had been denied the right to return in order to repair the defect, the employer could not recover more than the amount which it would have cost the contractor himself to remedy the defects. The employer's failure to comply with clause 2.5, therefore, whether by failing to allow the contractor to carry out the repairs or by failing to give notice of the defects, limited the amount of damages he was entitled to recover.

That did not, however, exclude the employer's right to recover consequential damages for the contractor's breach of contract in failing to carry out the works with appropriate materials and workmanship.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

**DEATHS**  
MAURICE, Phyllis, HMI Education 1947-70, died 20 February 1999. Her Chief Inspector of the time said of her work "I do not know of any infant school in the country which did not look forward to her visit and feel better for her presence in their school." The thanksgiving service will take place at Barrow Parish Church, Barrow, 4 March, at 10.30 am. Burial at 2 pm on 9 March followed by the funeral at the Crematorium, Risby.

NUTTING: The Right Hon Sir Anthony, Bt PC. The funeral will be held at 2 pm today, 4 March, at Holy Trinity Brompton, family and friends welcome. All enquiries to Leverton and Sons Ltd, 0171-367 6075.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

### BIRTHDAYS

Sir David Barnes, chief executive officer, Zeneca, 63; Mr Michael Barrett ("Shakin' Stevens"), rock singer, 51; Sir Alan Battersby, organic chemist, 74; Sir Arthur Bryan, former Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire, 76; Mr Keany Dalglish, football player and manager, 48; Mr Basil Eastwood, ambassador to Syria, 55; Mr Harvey Goldsmith, pop music presenter, 53; Mr Bernard Haitink, music director of Covent Garden Opera House, 70; Mr John Hunt, former Headmaster of Roedean, 67; Lord Johnston of Rockport, former chairman, NW Area Conservatives, 84; Mr Francis King, writer and drama critic, 76; Mr Ralph Kirshbaum, cellist, 53; Mr Ivan Lewis MP, 52; Miss Miriam Makeba, singer, 68; Mr Stuart Mawson, otolaryngologist, 81; Mr Patrick Moore, astronomer, 76; Miss Paula Prentiss, actress, 60; Mr Chris Rea, rock musician, 48; Mr Alan Sillitoe, playwright and novelist, 71; Mr Peter Skellern, composer and singer, 52.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Henry Raeburn, portrait painter, 1756;

### LECTURES

Thomas Sturge Moore, poet and wood-engraver, 1870.

Deaths: Sir Thomas Malory, writer of *Morte d'Arthur*, 1470; Nikolai Vasilyevich Gogol, playwright and novelist, 1852; Antonin Artaud, actor, playwright and stage director, 1948; Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, neurologist, 1952; William Carlos Williams, physician and poet, 1963; Richard Thomas Churchill, poet and novelist, 1972.

On this day: Pennsylvania was granted by charter to William Penn, 1681; the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was founded, 1824; the Forth Bridge was officially opened, 1890; the Comintern (Communist International) was formed, 1919; British commandos raided the (German-occupied) Lofoten Islands off Norway, 1941; German radio declared that Dresden had been "wiped off the map of Europe" by Allied bombing, 1945; North Sea gas was first piped ashore near Durham, 1967; Edward Heath resigned and Harold Wilson became prime minister, forming a Labour government, 1974.

### LUNCHEONS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a lunch party yesterday at Buckingham Palace. The guests were:

Mrs Lindsay Driscoll (solitary); Dame Diana Egan (secretary); Professor Sir David Davies (Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence); Mr Richard Dornett (Art Critic, *The Daily Telegraph*); Mr Jeff Hamilton (Chief Executive, British Tourist Authority); Sir Donald Irvine (President of the General Medical Council); Mr Charles Miller Smith (Chief Executive, ICD, Air Marshal Sir Peter Spence (Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command (designate)).

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits the Young Vic Theatre, London SE1, the Lyceum Theatre, London WC2, the Almeida Theatre, London N1, and the Duke of Edinburgh, visits Angels & Bermans, Camden Street, London NW1, attends a lunch hosted by the Society of London Theatre at the Ivy Restaurant, London WC1, and attends a performance of *Oklaoma* at the Lyceum Theatre, London WC2. The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Royal National Theatre, London SE1, the Adelphi Theatre, London WC2, the Royal Court Youth Theatre at the Duke of York's Theatre, London WC2, and Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, London WC1. The Prince of Wales undertakes engagements in Clwyd, Wales. The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, attends the Council Meeting at Saddlers' Hall, London EC2; and, as Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends a Residential Meeting at Cheltenham Park Hotel, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11 am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30 am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

### WHAT GOES THROUGH

potatoes' minds when an episode of something is announced by cable companies as "all-new" – a phrase not in the OED – but proves to be a rerun? Even if it were a fresh instalment, it should be described as brand-new or fire-new, for an all-new episode suggests that others – weirdly – must

### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
all-new, adj.  
be partly new and somehow incorporate stock footage which would give every narrative an unlikely, *Groundhog Day*-twist.

But, no, the prevalence of this claim in America has led to complaints – and to one cable company's chief making the bizarre explanation that *all-new* means an episode not previously shown by that company – as if anybody were enthralled by a particular transmitter. Let us resist a phrase which could creep here.

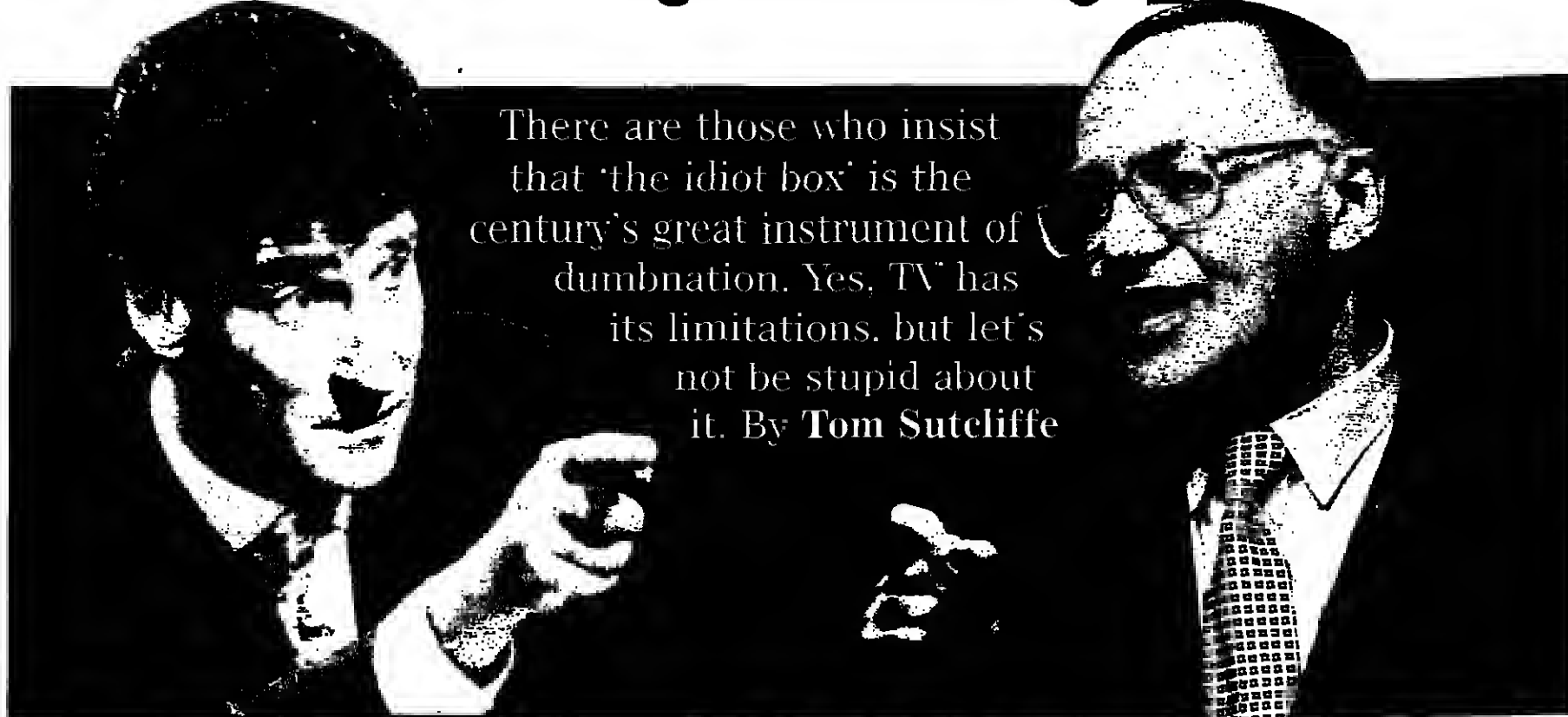


# The one-eyed hypnotist

**H**as television dumbled down? If you believed some people you might doubt that down was a direction that was even available to it. "Radio and television have succeeded in lifting the manufacture of banality out of the sphere of handicraft and placed it in that of a major industry," wrote Nathalie Sarraute in 1960. But her remark hardly had the character of a stunning aperçu even then. Dumb was what television was about, after all. It had already been fingered as the assassin of conversation, as cheap gin for the unlettered, as a one-eyed hypnotist that would brainwash your children and blue-rinse your judgement. Its hostile nicknames ("boob tube", "idiot box") cemented the association between the machine and moronism. Like most received opinions, this one wrapped a core of error in a coating of truth. Television could easily appear banal and lowering. It was true, but it also offered a dramatic enlargement of most people's horizons, socially and intellectually.

The education could take odd forms because television was such a universal and indiscriminate culture - with no strict conditions of entry. *Coronation Street* remained the favourite viewing of Sir John Betjeman until his death, and you could take that regular rendezvous between a Poet Laureate of the suburban upper crust and the inhabitants of a working class Manchester street as emblematic of television's powers of social miscegenation. Television opened this country up to itself in a way that had never been possible before. That needs stating bluntly, given the prevailing current of opinion: the general population in 1999 is better informed and educated than it was in 1947 and that is in large part due to television. It is an astonishing cultural resource and only long familiarity can have bred our contempt for it. Only the truly dumb could watch it and learn nothing.

This isn't to imply that the past constitutes a golden age. All golden ages are tricks of the light, an era seen as it dips below the horizon, so that high points are gilded with sunlight and low points disappear into a forgiving obscurity. However, it doesn't mean that there is nothing to be anxious about in current television culture. The truth is slightly more complicated than either formulation - television today is both better and worse than that of the past, more practised and polished in its means but frequently less ambitious and enterprising in its



Faxon vs Howard on 'Newsnight': it isn't by adhering to conventions that TV will keep its intellectual edge, but by seeking to overturn them Alistair McDonald

There are those who insist that 'the idiot box' is the century's great instrument of dumbnation. Yes, TV has its limitations, but let's not be stupid about it. By Tom Sutcliffe

## DUMB BRITANNIA 3. TELEVISION

increasingly pursued the route of imitation rather than innovation.

Some of this is due to what you might call the cabling of terrestrial television - the intrusion of a homogenising instinct into a culture that previously had plenty of room for idiosyncratic demographics. And again our local circumstances make Britain a special case in global television culture. If you live in Turkey or Australia there's a fair chance that

the Discovery Channel will provide your best port of call for serious documentaries. The benchmark of quality they represent will often exceed that to be found from domestic broadcasters. Even in the US, cable channels can make a fair claim to have lifted the standards of terrestrial broadcasters: with *The Simpsons*, the best sitcom of the last two decades, Fox demonstrated that intelligence was not incompatible with mass popularity; with *The Larry Sanders Show*, HBO showed that there was an audience for a darker, more edgy kind of comedy.

In this country, though, the example and demands of cable are more likely to drive standards down than up. Cable here has demonstrated that cheap and cheerful television can draw large audiences, particularly if its cheerfulness is sauced with sexual titillation. You can find terrestrial imitations of

Sky's *Uncovered* series (drunken British tourists getting their tits out for the lads) on most channels. And cable has also subverted British film-makers by providing a new and insistent overseas customer. The most conspicuous example of this is the BBC's recent deal with the Discovery Channel, an international broadcaster which, according to the remarks of one executive, regards a curious 12-year-old boy as its platonic ideal of the average viewer. The Discovery deal is not the end of civilisation exactly, but its effects are already discernible - an explication of the audience and which prizes interesting facts above provoking argument. Anecdotes are notoriously insubstantial foundations for any large-scale judgement but the story of the British film-maker who was asked by another international cable supplier whether his documentary

series about Jerusalem needed quite so much of that stuff about the conflict between Arabs and Jews has a certain illustrative force.

British terrestrial television has its own native vices, and when it comes to the presentation of complex ideas two stand out. The first is the importance of the celebrity in our culture - which affects not only the way in which popular middle-brow programming is made (anyone for Robin Williams with dolphins?) but also more intellectual productions. Arts television in particular has become fixated on the life over and above the work. Marketing, too, has come to play an increasing role in dictating the agenda of television - it would be remarkable now to find a single documentary about a dead cultural figure that arrived unattached to a blockbuster exhibition or a new Hollywood adaptation. "Because Titian is fascinating" would no longer be a satisfactory answer to the question, "Why do you want to make a film about Titian?"

The second besetting sin of current television is the apparently unbreakable conviction that adversarial debate is the best way to present intellectual content. This is partly an expression of our ingrained passion for dialectic, partly a belief that disagreement is a kind of spice that will make even the dullest matter palatable. Most journalists will have had the experience of being rung up by a researcher who doesn't ask "what do you think about X?" but rather "would you be able to argue against X, because we've already got someone in favour of it". In truth controversy on television is a neutralising force, a kind of blandness in itself - it's a way of taking the sting out of any argument by supplying it in a banded pack with its own analogue. You don't like what this person is saying? Well here is someone saying precisely the opposite. Choose your champion and let your brain relax. In this world of artificial confrontation, intelligence is sometimes forced to adopt a mushy dumbness to make itself felt at all. For my money one of the smartest moments on television in the last five years was the *Newsnight* interview in which Jeremy Faxon repeated the same question to Michael Howard over and over again - temporarily refusing to play the game by its established rules and thus establishing just how artificial the game was. It was a moment that demonstrated, rather better than blockbuster series or serious late-night documentaries, that it isn't by adhering to conventions that television will keep its intellectual edge but by seeking to overturn them.

## HOW DUMB ARE WE?



"In my view, whilst TV people speed a huge amount of money making dramas and will often adapt classic works, or prize-winning authors, publishers sell print whatever is going to sell the most. I, for instance, have often been asked to simplify my books or rework them with pictures and speech-bubbles," Helen Cresswell, children's author

"Art is viewed as airy-fairy, whilst practicality is thought to be a good thing. I was taught theatre at university, which you could say was pointless, but it prepared my wit, flexibility and personality for the work I do today. If I were to return to my old college now, however, I would see people training to be art administrators, because these jobs make money. In the long run that's not

practical. I may have had a classical education, but I saw what happened to the Greeks and the Romans, and I see what will happen to us."

AL KENNEDY, writer

The speakers are contributing to a conference, *Culture Wars*, Dumbing Down, Wising Up? at the Riverside Studios, London W8, 5-7 March



# Why can't I make decisions?

Glenn finds decisions very difficult to make. Not just whether to move house, but whether to go to the movies or out to dinner. He's tried making plus and minus lists, but it doesn't help. How can he stop being the eternal ditherer?

## VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

**W**hen exceptionally low, I've sometimes stood on the landing outside my bedroom for five whole minutes, wondering whether to go upstairs or downstairs. It's only when I remember my father's dictum: "If you can't make a decision between two things, then it probably doesn't matter much which decision you take. What matters is to make a decision", that I make a move.

It sounds as if Glenn's a little bit depressed, or has, as they say, "low self-esteem". Like Balaam's ass, who starved to death because he couldn't decide whether to eat the hay on the right or the hay on the left. Glenn is becoming stuck. He thinks: "I'll go to the movies." But he's got such a low opinion of himself that he believes any decision he makes must be wrong. So he changes his lack: "I'll go out to dinner." But as soon as he's decided, he doubts that, as well. He ends up doing nothing. So one bit of advice to Glenn is not to worry what decision to make, but make a decision and stick with it.

Alternatively, Glenn could get more information about the options. He should find out what films are on nearby, and see if any appeal. He should ring the restaurants he might want to have dinner in and find out if they're booked. Often you spend ages trying to make decisions about things, then find there is only one answer in practice. This way, with every new bit of information decision-making becomes a process rather than a frightening leap into the dark.

But management training sometimes encourages employees to think about "decision trees" when faced with difficult decisions. So Glenn should first of all go back to the root, which is "Do you want to go out tonight?" If the answer's "No", then small wonder he can't decide on movies or dinner.

Perhaps Glenn learnt in the past to associate decisions with anxiety and pressure. If his parents were overbearing, it would be easier to please them by agreeing with their decisions than put his own point of view, which would end in a row. Rather than suffer the disappointment of having his opinion squashed, he's learnt to have no views.

Or he may associate decision-making with bullying. If his parents took decisions, stuck to them through thick and thin and never compromised, Glenn may have forgotten that you can take decisions and adapt them later.

Decision-taking is putting yourself into the arena and taking responsibility. Glenn may need to realise that he's grown up now, and he doesn't have to please adults. He can do what he likes at last. True, he may sometimes decide not to take a decision. But there's a world of difference between this and just throwing your hands up in the air and leaving everything up to fate in a "Gawd-elp-us" way.

The art of decision-making can be learnt, but only up to a point. Glenn does need confidence as well. So how can he get it? Well, confidence can be built up. And it can be built up partly by making decisions. Yes, decisions. Right or wrong.

## DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



## NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, All my life I've wanted to go to India, and I've just booked a holiday there. But for the last few years I've had a sort of phobia about going away. I can't sleep the night before, I'm frightened of travelling, and I spend most of the holiday worrying. I used to be an intrepid traveller; I've been walking in Nepal, and when I was 25 I went round the world. Now I'm suddenly starting to dread going to India. I don't want to cancel the holiday, but how can I stop these irrational fears? Do others have them, too? Yours sincerely, Mona

Anyone whose advice is quoted will be sent a bouquet from laterflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, "The Independent", 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for the bouquet.

## READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Face the fact: life's not perfect. One of the problems with decision-making is not being able to face up to any unpleasantness. But we just have to face the fact that any decision means losing the advantages of an alternative. Once we give up the idea that life is perfect and that anything we do is a bit mixed, life becomes much more straightforward. It is also important to become accustomed to some unpleasantness and this can be done by practising doing something unpleasant every day.

MARY GIBBINS  
Tonbridge, Kent

My father was just like you. Take heart, Glenn. I was brought up by the likes of you. We moved into a rented house when I was 11 - my poor father couldn't decide which house to buy until I was 18 and had left home!

The end result is that I am fantastic at making decisions. I can't stand the dithering and agonising. Often there isn't a "best" or "right" choice. Sticking a pin in a list has directed my career choice on occasion. Just try it.

Don't get hung up on trying to be a success all the time. "Oops, dropped a clanger!" and "OK it didn't work, but at least I tried" are useful phrases.

ANI HARRIS  
New Mills, High Peak

down shoe shops, trying different pairs. For larger questions, such as changing jobs or moving house, I wrote endless lists of pros and cons, more reflective of my mood at the time than objective realities.

Yet, I am slowly getting better. My technique is to say to myself "well, what after all is at stake?" With the smaller decisions - what to eat for dinner, where to go on holiday, etc. - life is quite long enough for other options to be explored at another time. When you remind yourself of this, the pressure is removed and the decision is easier.

The larger questions can be resolved with a slight shift of philosophical perspective: at the end of your life you are more likely to regret the things you did not do than those you did. If only on the basis that we'll never know the outcome had we acted. The worst form of your problem, which you must resist at all costs, is the "Hamlet Syndrome", whereby chronic dithering spirals down into despair.

JAN BURNS  
Girton, Cambridge

Tossing a coin helps. Try a solution I used with my children when they couldn't make their minds up. Decide "Heads I go to the movies, tails I stay at home." Toss the coin. Whichever way it lands you have a decision. If you feel good about it, fine. Go with the coin and bring a little serendipity into your life. If you don't like it your true preference has become clear, and it's not too late to act on it.

ALAN SILVER  
Whetstone, London

## POETIC LICENCE

RETURN TO BEANO TOWN  
BY MARTIN NEWELL

A copy of the first edition of 'The Beano' from 1938 sold for a record £6,200 at auction this week. Of the strips within, only Lord Snooty will be familiar to today's 'Beano' readers



By battlements at Bunkerton, the castle  
The remnants of an untouched "topping spread"  
Since Scrapper, Doubling Thomas and Lord Snooty  
Were ambushed by the Gasworks Gang instead  
And Bunkerton is falling down  
When I return to Beano Town

The Menace lies in wait for sooty Walter  
His caty and the shock of hair the same  
And after the denouement, still shouts, "Ooyah!"  
When punished by his dad in final frame.  
A weekly thrashing on the bum  
No social workers ever come.

Where Teacher wakes to mortar-boarded bedposts  
Cane-patterns on his curtains, teeth in glass  
A wife who calls him "dear" and is his double  
Will make him tea and send him to his class  
To teach what arid stuff he knows  
And leaden-hearted, off he goes

Fast Biffo, lateral thinker/style disaster  
His weekly catch phrase: "Ah the very thing!"  
Who's busy solving problems for a butler  
With giant magnet, fishing-rod and string.  
The large white fiver which he's won  
Not quite enough to buy a gun.

Then back in Bash Street, Danny, Plug and Fatty  
Will watch resigned, as Smiffy gets it wrong  
The Three Bears grow obese on mash and bangers  
While Roger dreams up dodges all day long  
And Little Plum, your redskin chum  
Prefixes every noun with "Um"

Where mums remain at home to do the housework  
And dads all have moustaches and a job  
Where slippers and canings come routinely  
And slap-up feeds still only cost ten bob  
Where order never quite broke down  
For long decades in Beano Town

(Ho ho readers. Now for a feast.)

JP 11/01/99







## FILM

## Tasteful, all too tasteful

**H**ave you noticed how long movies are these days? One of the more alarming repercussions of James Cameron's *Titanic* is the way the film's success has sanctioned not just the runaway budget but the runaway length. It now seems that three hours is perfectly acceptable as a running time. While this might be justified in the case of a Malick or a Spielberg, it feels like bad news as a trend: why on earth was *Meet Joe Black* allowed to snail past the three-hour mark?

Time can, of course, play tricks in the dark. It's not how long a movie lasts, but how long it seems. I recently sat down to watch a movie at 10.30 in the morning. Two hours later I sneaked a look at my watch: it was 10.45. Jonathan Demme's *Beloved* isn't in that category, but it does last close to three hours, and once it's over you can't quite understand why it should have taken so long. It isn't exactly boring, but it lacks any of the qualities that could sustain its inordinate length: narrative drive, passionate engagement, thematic complexity. And this is a film about black slavery! That it fails to work is certainly no fault of the source material. Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel was remarkable both for its haunting, mythic resonance and its lyrical, metallized prose. Oprah Winfrey, who stars in the film, optioned the rights to the book when it was published in 1987, and the potency of the material is there for all to see. It's a black American version of *Medea* set against the tumultuous backdrop of slavery, spooked

## THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

**BELOVED (15)**  
DIRECTOR: JONATHAN DEMME  
STARRING: OPRAH WINFREY,  
DANNY GLOVER, THANDIE NEWTON,  
KIMBERLEY ELISE  
171 MINUTES

with guilt and a grippingly morbid intensity. Morrison's story operated on a dual time-scale, either side of the Civil War: in 1875, Sethe (Winfrey) is a one-time slave and mother of three scraping by in rural Ohio, where she fled 18 years previously from the Sweet Home farm in Kentucky. Memories of that place ("It wasn't sweet, and it sure wasn't home") are painfully reawakened by the reappearance of Paul D (Danny Glover), a fellow fugitive who shows up after years of wandering. Sethe is happy enough to see him, but what Paul D finds on entering her house isn't anything he's prepared for. The walls glow orange, the floorboards shake, the windows rattle: it's the ghost of Sethe's infant daughter, murdered 18 years ago and

still playing havoc with the family furniture. Only Sethe and her other daughter, Denver (Kimberley Elise), have remained in the house. Paul D refuses to be cowed by the outraged revenant, and after weathering crockery-smashing and table-turning, drives the ghost away. I guess this is intended to be high drama. All it reminded me of was Steve Martin in *The Man With Two Brains* confessing a new-found love before a portrait of his dead wife and asking for a sign if she disapproves. (The portrait starts spinning, lightning flashes, etc.)

With the house becalmed, a romance springs up between Sethe and Paul D, who turn out to have matching scars on their backs from the white man's whip. In the novel one senses the urgency of their connection: a communion of two grateful survivors with stories to tell one another. It's here that we expect the film-makers to shift back to the time of Sweet Home in order to detail the misery and suffering of the slave past: this, we're sure, will be the heart of the movie.

Instead, past and present have been turned back to front: Sethe's escape from Kentucky and the birth of her daughter on the banks of the Ohio are condensed into amber-lit flashbacks, expertly done and finely played by Lisa Gay Hamilton as the young Sethe, yet much too fleeting for their significance to be felt. Jonathan Demme concentrates instead on the present – the Winfrey-led sections – in which a beautiful young woman (Thandie Newton) dressed in black shows up at Sethe's home, drooling and talking in a voice that sounds like a demonic frog. This is *Beloved*, the ghost of the murdered daughter in



Too serene to make the pulse race: L to R, Kimberley Elise, Oprah Winfrey, Thandie Newton

human shape, and armed to the teeth with vengeful schemes.

It is also, I'm afraid, an absurd misjudgement. Newton, memorable in John Dugan's lovely coming-of-age movie *Flirting*, is here allowed full rein to make a fool of herself, wobbling her head, twisting her mouth and slowing her voice to Forrest Gump pace. Her introduction also has the effect of slowing the picture. Demme, who possibly played second fiddle to fellow producer Winfrey, seems to be tiptoeing round the scenery – a strange turnaround from the man who brought us *The Silence of the*

Lamb. Shots of butterflies and birds proliferate throughout, like last week's *The Thin Red Line*, much is made of the enigmatic beauty of nature. I kept waiting for the book's most horrifying scene – one which has stayed with me in the 10 years since I read it involving a chain gang standing in a trench while their white owners sexually abuse them. And, wouldn't you know, the film completely overlooks it. It's on pages 107-108 of the Picador paperback, in case you're interested.

Perhaps people will find a meaning or even an uplift in *Beloved* which I missed,

though I can't see how it would enthrall anyone. It's somehow too strait-laced, too draggy, too solemn in its reverence to make the pulse race. The film's preferred method of signalling high emotion is to have a massed choir warbling out an ethereal hymn. While Winfrey and Glover haven't disgraced themselves in the central roles, there's no sense of a performance being wrung out of them: they look oddly serene for former slaves. Aside from a handful of brief flashbacks, nothing much ruffles the stately progress of an adaptation which misguidedly glosses terror with tastefulness.

## ALSO SHOWING

FESTEN THOMAS VINTERBERG (15) ■ KIMI AND ADAMS IDRISSE OUEDEMOGBO ■ SCHIPAAU ERIC POPPE (18) ■ THE 39 STEPS ALFRED HITCHCOCK (PG)

WE'VE ALREADY had one great traumatic father-and-son movie this year in Paul Schrader's *Affliction*; now there is a second in *Festen*. The young Danish director Thomas Vinterberg spends the first half-hour slyly confusing us as to what sort of film we're meant to be watching. Ostensibly it's about an affluent, bourgeois family gathering to celebrate the 60th birthday of their formidable patriarch (Henning Moritzen). Here come dutiful son Christian (Ulrich Thomsen), now a successful chef in Paris; younger brother Michael

(Thomas Bo Larsen), cheating husband and ne'er-do-well; their free-spirit sister Helene (Paprika Steen), plus sundry other relatives and friends.

The one notable absentee is Christian's twin sister, Linda, whose recent suicide reverberates through the family house and unexpectedly becomes the focal point of the birthday celebrations. Picture the scene: the guests are done up to the nines and making merry over the dinner table when Christian rises to toast his father as agreed. Only it's not a fond filial tribute – it's a calm

denunciation of the old man for sexually abusing him and his dead sister when they were kids. The silence that falls over the assembled, followed by a stifled clap, is ghastly perfection. It's impossible to imagine a more horrible accusation. What we urgently need to discover is whether it's true.

Vinterberg's distinctive visual style – a shaky *cinéma vérité* look – is governed by the Dogné rule of film-making, whose rules he formulated with fellow Dane Lars von Trier. In effect it means using only hand-held camera, natural light and

untreated sound. More importantly, it's the boldly naturalistic performances he draws from his cast that make the film soar, from bit parts all the way up to Moritzen's paternal monster. It's testament to the film's extraordinary subtlety that, by the end, you may feel a terrible shiver of sympathy for him.)

At times, this terrific party-on-the-verge-of-a-nervous-breakdown recalls Robert Altman's *A Wedding*, and there are shades of *Buñuel* in the way the veneer of respectability is peeled away to reveal viciousness and hypocrisy. Yet Vinterberg has no reason to stand in anybody's shadow; his film has a confidence all its own, and its seamless melding of tragedy and farce will be hard to forget.

*Kimi and Adams* is a tale of two friends who long to escape their tumbledown existence in the remote Zimbabwesi countryside. Kimi (Vusi Kameni) and Adams (David Muboko) have spent the last five years patiently repairing an old wreck of a car which they

hope will transport them to a brighter future in the city. But fissures in their friendship begin to show when Kimi, the responsible family man, is promoted to foreman at the quarry where they both work, and Adams, a dreamy type, falls helplessly prey to a rapacious working girl. Kismet Ouedraogo's film has a storybook simplicity, and makes good use of the parched landscape. What hobbles it is some amateur-hour acting and a script that's distinctly programmatic: the constant exchange of dismal, heavy-handed jokes is particularly unfortunate.

Norway's main newspaper, *Dagbladet* called *Schipaa* "the most important Norwegian film of the decade", so I was braced for something out of the common ruck. Erik Poppe's feature debut turns out to be an energetic, though hardly groundbreaking, portrait of disaffected youth on the streets of Oslo. Its focus is the friendship between 13-year-old Jonas (Malik Andressen Abou-Zelou) and 15-



'Festen': a seamless melding of tragedy and farce

year-old Emir (Jalal Zhabedjeka), a war child from former Yugoslavia, along with three other mixed-descent Norwegian kids they hang on the fringes of the Oslo underworld, bunking off school, stealing and, in the time-honoured tradition of youth, snatching things up. But they get in over their heads when a heroin deal backfires and gang loyalties reach critical mass. The filmmakers reveal an ambivalent sympathy

for their tearaway subjects, which is fine, but there's nothing especially insightful about the treatment of teenage criminality. And the doomy techno-soundtrack protests "urban jungle" with galumphing self-importance. If you want the dope on Oslo's peculiar drabness, try Pal Sletten's wonderful *Junk Mail*.

Graham Greene once complained of Hitchcock's "inadequate sense of reality", and

it's true that *The 39 Steps* (1935) has its fair share of inconsistencies and plot-holes. Yet no matter how many times you watch it, there's something irresistible about this creaking melodrama. Part of the appeal lies in its comedy: the opening music-hall scene is a hilarious view of the London masses at leisure, bawling the MC from the stalls and bawling over nothing. It also emerges in Hitchcock's sense of mischief – his handclapping of suave Robert Donat to the prissy Madeleine Carroll injects an ironic undertone that's typically perverse. Yet what modern audiences will most respond to is its innocence, the glimpse of a bygone age when it was OK to smoke in theatres, wear fabulous overcoats and invite a mysterious woman back to your pad without a hint of salaciousness – and then cook her a piece of haddock. In those pre-Delta days that must have required some style.

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Fernanda Montenegro Marília Pêra Vinícius de Oliveira

CENTRAL STATION  
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RUSHES  
MIKE HIGGINS

TODAY'S RUSHES feels it should give the Human Rights Watch Film Festival a belated mention. After two weeks at the Brixton Ritzy, London, the festival shows a final programme today. Why plug it now? Well, Rushes has been primed to proclaim the HRWF to the free world for a while, but lost the battle for page space. To re-cap, then, the festival gave Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's novel its UK premiere. It also featured the Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzmán's long-term documentation of Chile's political turmoil over the last 30 years. The second part of his epic *Battle of Chile* trilogy (1973-79), on the build-up to the coup, made for illuminating, if grim, viewing. Allende's desire to pacify the privileged right wing of his country now seems utterly misguided and Guzmán allows the tension to build with almost savage grace. Impressive, too, was the film of Guzmán's return to Chile in 1996 after 23 years

of exile, *Chile, Obstinate Memory*. Will there be another chance to see these films? Last year HRWF showed *Waco*, the *Rules of Engagement*, causing such a stir that BBC2's *Storyville* strand picked it up. Let's hope the same happens here. (As for Guzmán, he's just been awarded \$100,000 by the US-based Soros Institute to make "the last film about Pinochet").

Anyway, do the right thing and get down to Brixton this afternoon: *Sacrifice* (a documentary on Burmese child prostitutes) plays at 4.30pm, followed by *Windhorse* (a Tibetan political drama) at 7pm and *The City* (a tale of New York working-class struggle) at 9.30pm.

JUST A couple of weeks into his post-ER career, gorgeous George Clooney is close to landing a role in a Coen brothers project. *Bratler, Where Art Thou* will be the literary adaptation to end them all, based as it is on Homer's *Odyssey*.

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# It could have been a contender

Boxing's compressed and explosive drama has made some great movies. *Southpaw* isn't one of them. By Jonathan Rendall

**E**ddie, the fight game in this country is falling apart. The boys are getting too smart. They all wanna go to college and be doctors and lawyers. They don't wanna fight for a livin' no more."

True, true. Everyone in boxing is saying the same thing. This Nick Banca is perspicacious. Here's another thing he told Eddie: "The fight game today is all about show business. The best showman becomes the champ." See? On the button. And Nick wasn't even saying it today. He was saying it in 1956 to Humphrey Bogart, who played Eddie in *The Harder They Fall*, in the opening scene of the best boxing film ever made.

Eddie is a fallen former big-name sportswriter. He sells his soul to Nick (Rod Steiger), boxing promoter and seriously powerful gangster. The deal is that Eddie, previously a man of impeccable integrity, has to mastermind the hype surrounding Toro Moreno. El Toro is a giant, a freak of nature. He can't fight a lick and smart-arse-wise he's no more than an innocent child, but it doesn't matter. His every victory will be fixed until he reaches the golden payday of a heavy-weight title challenge. There, of course, he will be annihilated. But it will be a very good hit of business for Nick, and Eddie will get a big slice, too.

Just putting down the transcribed quotes of this old film can make you feel engaged, perhaps a little Runyonesque, intoxicated by the extremes of the boxing world, its compression of our long existences, the barely perceptible dips in our graphs where aspiration turns to manageable disappointment. Not like boxing there you get a jagged graph like a lightning bolt, always ending in that steep descent, you get white heat and icy darkness in one three-minute round, multiple tear-stained lifetimes all in the space of one fighter's six-year career. You can understand why film-makers and writers get drawn to it. There's more material than you can use. There's guaranteed paths. It's so easy.

And, the best thing is, it's still there. In a town near you: the boxing gym. Crammed with eager kids - invariably the majority will be the poorest kids - just starting off on that doomed rollercoaster ride. Why not slip back to 1956 for a while? In the early 90s I showed a tape of *The Harder* to a young London middleweight I knew, a medium-ranking pro. As the credits rolled, he leapt up and unleashed a four-punch combination at the air excitedly. "That film has got it man!" he exclaimed. "Nuffin's changed! I'm tellin' ya! Nuffin!"

That's the key, you see. Boxing is the same story, over and over again. It's only



Centre: Robert De Niro in 'Raging Bull'; clockwise, 'Fat City', Francis Barrett in 'Southpaw' and Rod Steiger with Bogart in 'The Harder They Fall'

the names of the boxers that change. So if you're going to tell the story on film (I mean, tell it with a view to saying something) you'd better be good, because you're going to be directly comparable with every other film that's told the story before: not just *The Harder*, but films such as *Raging Bull* and *Fat City* with Stacey Keach and Jeff Bridges.

Actually, *Raging Bull* might have eclipsed *The Harder* but for a terrible piece of casting that gives the role of Sugar Ray Robinson, the pound-for-pound slickest, deadliest, handsomest boxer-puncher ever to lace them on, to a novice actor who not only obviously can't fight but is ugly, too. Otherwise, of course, it's a magical, beautifully shot truth-ride; and, speaking as someone who's watched the ref's fingers unfurl over him from a canvas-prone position, also replicates better than anything the strange, dark, neurone-popping mood of the ring when you're being rendered semi-conscious in public.

As for *Fat City* it too is a gem and is a solid No.3. It's director, John Huston, a for-

mer amateur boxer, was a fight nut who also understood the ring's tragic grandeur with true, regretful wisdom.

What all three films have in common is that, like the best fighters, they know exactly what they are doing. The Runyonesque stuff is there but it's just a faint, lead you in, to take you down into the real trade, the meat end.

Which brings me, finally, to *South-*

wrong in that. A decade ago the photographer, Bruce Weber, made a beautiful documentary, *Broken Noses*, which also passed the art test, and that's not even mentioning *When We Were Kings*. But if you're going to talk the talk, you've got to walk the walk.

Francis Barrett can fight. He's a young brawler who's all over you from first bell to last. His defence is not the best but he

ongoing struggle to get in shape for the Sydney 2000 games. You can't go wrong with a subject like Francis. Forget 1956, his living conditions are more 1930s depression: a muddy Galway caravan site, each wagon stacked with relatives clinging on to dignity, no hot water. And outside the ring Francis is a shy charmer, with an innocent smile. If I recommended that you saw *Southpaw*, it would be just for Francis. His material's so good. He is a star. But then again, this is boxing. It's the least you expect. It's not the criteria.

Unfortunately, all the rest - the film-making part - is bad, oh, bad. The director, a Mr Liam McGrath, gets sidetracked by his sub-theme, that Francis's rise to brief Atlanta fame shattered "traveller" stereotypes and was good for everyone, including Francis and his folks. Well, this may be an admirable idea, but as McGrath well knows - but does not include in the film, even as a written postscript - it is particularly inappropriate in Francis's case.

About two-thirds through, just as the paths should be kicking in, you realise

that the film-makers don't even know the story. And if you don't know the story, how can you even attempt to get down to the meat? Instead, you realise they want to make a nice hit-sweet, but ultimately happy end. There's a big white flower-strewn traveller's wedding in London, and then after a bit the screen goes black except for some written information, to bring us up to date, which says that Francis is happily back in training and gunning for gold in Sydney.

Let me say what actually happened. The publicity Francis Barrett received in Atlanta seriously offended the macho wing of Ireland's traveller community. To them, it's bare-knuckle fighting that's the thing. Francis was invited to prove himself but he refused. This was taken as cowardice. Finally, last year, his father agreed to take Francis to a meet with the traveller bonchos where they could explain their reasons. There they were jumped and stabbed, though both have recovered. I asked *Southpaw*'s PR company about this and was told: "Liam is saving it for the sequel."

Sequel, eh? Well, I'm sorry, Liam, but you blew it. You had the real story but you censored it for the sake of your happy superficial one.

As for sequels, the truth doesn't wait. In boxing, it moves fast. And by the way, I hope Downtown Pictures paid its star. Did they? I'd just like to know.

Anyway, it's Francis I'm more worried about. In these Prince Naz days, his honest lack of showmanship could make him an antidotal showman. But from *Southpaw* it's clear Francis is still fixed on glory and also guilt - how he let his fans down in Atlanta and how he's going to make it up to them. Well, that too is noble but in his sphere it's also damaging and naive. The boxing game gets almost everyone in the end - even Ali - and the one thing you can't afford is naivety.

It may be innocence-shattering but someone really should tell Francis the story that actually a few have got out solvent and intact, by throwing off their ego and their boxing-addiction and walking away young enough for the punches to leave only slight imprints.

It's what Eddie says to Toro Moreno about the fans: "Have you seen their faces? They pay a few lousy bucks to see a man get killed. To hell with them. Think of yourself. Take your money and get out of this rotten business."

*'Southpaw'* is released in selected cinemas from March 17. Jonathan Rendall's book, *This Bloody Mary Is The Last Thing I Own - a journey to the end of boxing*, is published by Faber and Faber, price £6.99.

Boxing is the same story over and over again.  
It's only the names of the boxers that change

*Southpaw*. I would have put it in higher but I wanted *Southpaw* to know what it's up against. *Southpaw* comes with all the appurtenances of a feature film. It's preceded by the words, "Downtown Pictures Presents..." It's being represented by a PR company and it's getting a cinema release. In fact, it's a documentary about an Irish amateur fighter, Francis Barrett. Nothing

is all heart and, win or lose, he won't let you down. You may remember him from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

He was said to be the first "traveller" to be picked for Ireland. He carried the flag at the opening ceremony, only to be eliminated in the second round by a useful African jab-and-mover. *Southpaw* covers this journey and his subsequent

## DOUBLE BILL

DAVID KANE, DIRECTOR OF 'THIS YEAR'S LOVE', CURRENTLY ON RELEASE, ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

**HAROLD AND MAUDE**  
(HAL ASHBY, 1971)  
**BEING THERE**  
(HAL ASHBY, 1979)

HAL ASHBY is a really great director, and these are both black comedies, which is why I thought they would be good as a double bill. They are such well-made and original films.

*Harold and Maude* is about a young man obsessed with suicide, who drives around in a big hearse, and stages his own death. He wants to scare people. He meets a 79-year-old woman at one of the funerals, a concentration camp survivor, and falls in love. It explores the love affair between two eccentrics.

The film appeals because they are two eccentric people who must relate to one another. She teaches him to enjoy life more - he doesn't have much of a life because he is obsessed with death. She brings him out of himself. And he gives her love and affection.



Some found the physical relationship between an old woman and a young boy shocking at the time, and it is still highly unusual. But it is filmed decently, and shot in a subtle, restrained way. It's classy.

In *Being There* a man has grown up in a buge house where he's worked in the garden since he was a child. He has never been outside the walls of the garden, until the rich old man dies and he is evicted. To make things worse, the only way he has seen the real world is through TV - through fantasy - making the film a modern parable.

He gets picked up by a millionaire politician's wife, becoming an adviser to the President. Everything he says is taken as wisdom. In fact, he is almost a moron. He is just thought to be a wise man who has come out of a paradise existence. He talks in a really childish way about his garden, because that is all he knows, but people think he is being clever and wise. He is literally talking about his garden. It's very funny.

I think *Being There* is the more cynical film, representative of an

attitude to society that was growing at the time. It's about how society is desensitised to suffering. The main character doesn't really have any emotions; he doesn't know about relationships and feelings. In *Harold and Maude*, life is about love and affection. But they each make heroes of outsiders. I don't think outsider films would get made in the mainstream studios these days; things have changed so much. Hollywood has dumbed down a lot; films aren't nearly as intelligent.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

"The fatalistic beauty of Jon Sanders' 'Painted Angels'... a great triumph of artistic will" Michael Church - THE INDEPENDENT

★★★★★ "Compelling..." UNCUT

★★★★ "A graceful drama... the acting is astounding... Superbly shot" EMPIRE

"A startlingly new view of the Old West... Boldly original and beautifully acted" Derek Malcolm - THE GUARDIAN

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# The boy from Brazil

Shot on a shoestring and starring a former shoeshine boy, director Walter Salles' *Central Station* is set to scoop an Oscar and prove that size doesn't always matter. By Geoffrey Macnab

The film *Central Station* (Central do Brasil) tells of a journey into the hinterland of the South American country. Dora, a retired Rio schoolteacher (Fernanda Montenegro), accompanies Josué, a nine-year-old street kid (Vinicius de Oliveira) in search of his father. It has already won a Golden Globe award and is widely expected to win an Oscar next month (it's nominated for Best Foreign Language Film; Montenegro is up for Best Actress).

The boy's quest is not an excuse for sub-Disney whimsy. Rather, it stands for a national quest for self-identity. "All countries that have been colonised and then abandoned have this sense of the loss of the father figure," says the film's writer-director, Walter Salles.

His own father – a banker – may be one of the richest men in Brazil, but everything about Salles suggests austerity. He is an earnest 43-year-old who sometimes seems more like a priest than a film-maker as he unravels the secret meanings of his deceptively simple parable.

"Obviously, I come from a very privileged background but since I was 13 or 14 I have realised how removed I was from social reality. That's why I yearned to become a documentarist – to plunge into that social reality."

*Central Station* had an unusual gestation. In 1996, Salles sent his screenplay to Robert Redford's Sundance Institute. He had written it in Portuguese when it should have been in English and it arrived late, but Salles won a cash prize that enabled him to develop the project.

"Somebody managed to read it... what I think interested the Sundance Institute was the multi-layered quality of the plot."

Salles explains that Dora, who makes a living writing letters for illiterates, which she often cruelly fails to send, stands for "a certain culture of indifference and cynicism which characterised our country in the Seventies and Eighties".

Josué, the boy, represents the opposite. "He stands for the possibility of change. Through his fierce desire to meet his unknown father, he grants himself a new future. The



Walter Salles: "When I was 13 or 14 I realised how removed I was from social reality"

character of the boy has to do with the desire of the country to shape itself into something new."

By travelling away from the city – which is characterised by its violence and squalor – the unlikely, hardened travelling companions are able to "resensitise" themselves.

The story of how the director found his leading man could inspire a film in its own right. He was looking for a boy who "knew what fighting for survival on the streets of Rio meant, but on the other hand, had not lost his innocence". Enter Vinicius de Oliveira.

"One day I went to the airport at 7am. It was pouring with rain. I was drinking coffee, trying to wake up," Salles remembers. "I felt somebody pulling my sleeve. I looked down and

it was this nine-year-old kid trying to attract my attention. He said he was the shoeshine boy."

The kid couldn't drum up any business because of the rain. He knew that he couldn't shine Salles' shoes – Salles was wearing sneakers. Even so, he asked for a small loan. "He said he was an honest guy and that when I was back from my journey, he'd pay me back."

Salles was fascinated. When he asked the boy to do a film test, Vinicius said that he had never seen a film. Salles auditioned him anyway. "And I had found the boy for the film. Or to be fair, he had found me."

Vinicius, Salles points out, wasn't really a street kid. "He was a little warrior fighting for survival, working – not stealing. He came from a

very solid family." Since completing the movie, Vinicius, now 12, has returned to school. (The producers are paying his fees through college.)

The boy also introduces a daily TV programme for children who couldn't make it to school. "He talks about geography, history, grammar... the programme is a great success and his life has been transformed. He lives in a good apartment. He's making a substantial amount of money. But he has kept the integrity he had when I met him. He realises his own social responsibility in regard to other kids who didn't have the chance he had."

If you ask Salles to pinpoint the appeal of *Central Station*, he suggests that it lies in the film's open-hearted quality. Its technique harks

back to the Italian Neo-Realist agenda and to Brazil's own Cinema Novo rather than to "the neon realist agenda of Hollywood cinema".

Salles follows the advice that film-makers should find their stories out on the streets, from real people. It's no coincidence that *Central Station* was produced by the veteran Arthur Cohn, who has also worked with the Neo-Realist Vittorio de Sica.

For all his modesty, the writer-director can't resist a little crowing about the film's reception in Brazil. "It has the best screen average of the year. *Titanic* is second and *Godzilla* is third. So you see, size doesn't matter after all."

*Central Station* is out on 12 March

## Director Feelgood

Jim Carrey, Robin Williams and Bob Hope all have one thing in common – Tom Shadyac. By Liese Spencer

"I CAN'T remember the joke exactly, but I remember the punchline had to do with two scoops of ice cream," says Tom Shadyac. The director of *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *The Nutty Professor* and *Liar, Liar* is thinking back to 1962, when he sold his first wisecrack to Bob Hope.

At 25 years old, Shadyac was the youngest back in Hope's script-writing sweatshop. "Even when I was on vacation," says Shadyac, "he would call me up and say something like: 'I got to speak at a dinner for these football players, got any football jokes?' It was like being a doctor, you had to be on call 24 hours a day."

Then one day, after two and a half years, the phone stopped ringing. "I had to call another writer to find out what happened," remembers Shadyac. "Bob had heard I was doing my own stand-up and that was that. In a way it was a back-handed compliment. It was Bob saying: 'I don't want you to be great for me, I just want you to be great for me.'"

Seventeen years later, Shadyac's still spookily young-looking, with an elfin face and flowing black locks. Meanwhile, he has also launched the film career of Oscar-contender Jim Carrey and relaunched the career of Eddie Murphy. His latest movie, the Robin Williams vehicle *Patch Adams*, was phenomenally successful in the States. Even if you're no fan of Williams' honey-baked ham, you have to admire the efficiency with which Shadyac tugs the audience's heartstrings.

But I'm intrigued. Shadyac saw through the *bonhomie* of Bob Hope. What about Hollywood's latest crop of funny guys? Shadyac looks uncomfortable. When he received the script for *Ace Ventura*, Shadyac rewrote it, arranged a meeting with the studio, then pitched them the "radical idea" of casting Jim Carrey.

"Jim says he'd been offered *Ace Ventura* before and kept turning it down," says Shadyac. "That is not my recollection. A couple of

directors wouldn't even see him. Jim was a TV star."

But he's unwilling to say more. Jim Carrey is "a sweet guy". Eddie Murphy is "sweet" and Robin Williams "is simply one of the most generous men I ever met as a human being".

"Robin would have made almost every day with a kid from a charity. People don't know how good he is," Shadyac says.

But surely, there must be some million-dollar egos raging on the set sometimes? "You're digging in dirt," Shadyac snaps. "I'm not going to criticise the media because people like to hear the negative. I just think it's sad."

When I suggest that reporting an on-set stand-off is hardly incendiary, he becomes icy.

"Well, Robin is like his character, and that character gets angry sometimes because he's a human being. Does Robin walk on air? No. But if you're looking for when he screamed at me in his trailer one time – which I'm not even saying he did – I won't share that. It's a violation of our relationship. We have to protect the freedom of the creative process because it's challenging."

Certainly it must be challenging when "Robin and Eddie" were rehearsing or when Carrey spends five hours going over one line, but for Shadyac these foibles simply point to professionalism.

"It's no accident that people in love with these stars," he argues. "These guys are showing you some pretty likeable characters and that's just how they are."

Shadyac's description of his actors feels dishonest – not because of what he says, but of what he doesn't say. In the fearful, feelgood universe which Shadyac inhabits, there's no room for messiness or complexity. That equals negativity. No stars are "exceptional creatures" and Shadyac will serve them sunny-side up, off screen and on. Wonder what Bob Hope thinks of that?

*Patch Adams* is out on 12 March

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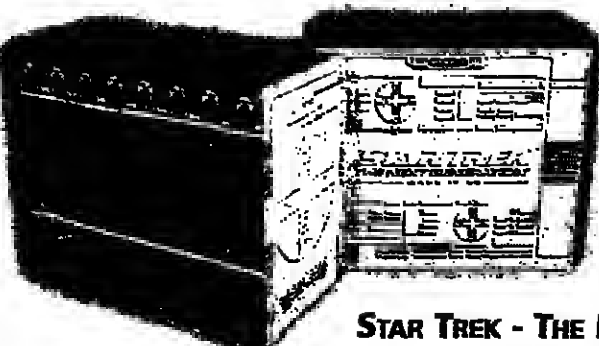
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What they say about the film industry is true: it's who you know that counts. By Hilde Syversen

# All you need is contacts

**D**on't give up the night job. If you want to get into the film industry, that is. After all, financial hardship is inescapable in any sector where people are queuing up to work for free. The good news is, however, that cinema attendance is at its highest since 1974, and consumer spending in this area is expected to double between 1997 and 2007. And with new sources of funding, such as the lottery, the jobs on offer are increasing fast – and they're not just for hands-on, creative types.

The general belief – overwhelmingly backed by research – is that the three key ways into film are contacts, contacts and contacts. If you haven't got any, you'll have to get some by going to courses and conferences and by getting work experience in the industry. Any work.

"On the production side, running is the best way in, and you get that by persistence," says Joanie Blaikie, head of production at the BBC department for films and single drama. "Sometimes that means accepting an office runner job before getting a production runner job. The qualifications for being a runner are enthusiasm, a capacity for hard work and, often, the ability to drive a car."

On the editorial side, she suggests, the best entry position is as a reader, reading scripts. And for this, a degree is fundamental. "Readers are usually people with English degrees. We have taken on people straight from university, but usually they have some other experience."

Blaikie advises novices to start looking for work where production volumes are high – for example, a television series. "Films happen only every so often, and don't employ so many people on a regular basis."

You may want to go for secretarial work, she adds. "I have four graduates working here as secretaries."

Some BBC films are made by independent production companies, some in the regions and some in-house. But don't assume that just because a company makes films, it employs staff on a permanent basis. "For each film, we take on freelance staff – from the runners up to the producer," says Blaikie.

Emil Elmer, 27, is one of three full-time production staff at Miramax in London, and his experience mirrors Blaikie's advice. "Try the temp agencies, or send in your CV and get work experience or an internship," he says. Indeed, Elmer – who has a business degree and a year of film studies behind him – first entered the



Anna Nicoll: 'The industry is full of people who want to get into the creative side, but it is a business'

Kaipesh Lathigra

industry via an internship. Some film schools will arrange these for their students, but it is also worth approaching the companies directly.

For the graduate who isn't interested in production, the main areas in which to seek work are finance, contracts, sales, marketing, and PR.

"The industry is full of people who want to get into the creative side, but it is a business, and most people working in it are involved in the business side of things," emphasises Anna Nicoll, 28, who works for DDA, one of the top PR agencies in the industry.

"You have to be willing to do whatever comes your way in the beginning, but once you've made a start it's easier," she advises. She believes her BA in photography was one of the best things she ever did, but a degree is no door-opener in this industry. "They don't want people who think they know anything. They want someone who is young and will work for free."

Nicoll sent out as many CVs as was physically possible and, through a contact, got a junior job in a film sales

company. There she stayed for six months, but found it too tough. Speaking fluent Spanish, however, enabled her to move on by getting work helping out at a film course in Madrid.

"Suddenly I met lots of producers and people in the industry on all kinds of levels, and I realised there are many jobs unlike the one I had. I made lots more contacts, which is the single most important thing in this industry. My boss on that course gave my name to the next boss." And he was

a film consultant. Four years on, Nicoll was able to move on to DDA.

"DDA has huge offices in London, New York and LA," she continues. "It does PR for films, has a huge presence in Cannes, organises events such as the European Film Awards and is involved in the London Film Festival. I do research into the European film industry and films, and work on other specific things, like the London Film Festival. It's the kind of company where you can shape your own job."

Nicoll's advice is to be flexible, to be able to enjoy different things, and to put any previous work experience on the CV, particularly sales or business experience. "It's amazing what things turn out to be useful, even if you've only worked in a shop or a bar or looked after children. It's an industry where how you relate to other people matters so much."

Angela Jackson works on the legal side. "The people I meet are producers, bankers, accountants and other lawyers, but also directors, actors and their agents," the 37-year-old solicitor explains. Having got her law degree, Jackson managed to get a training contract with a firm of solicitors specialising in media work. Eight years later she started her own practice, holding producers' hands through contract signings.

"The film industry's a free-for-all, where it matters a lot whether you can thrust your way to the Majestic bar in Cannes, and throw yourself at somebody." And yes, even lawyers get to go to Cannes.

## GETTING STARTED

Read: the newspaper media pages for job ads and the trade press, such as *Screen International* and *Sight and Sound*, to find out when films are going into production, and to learn more about the industry. Try: a detour via TV, theatre or publishing. You could also think about starting out in educational or corporate films.

Other sources: The industry training organisation, Skillset, publishes a useful handbook on its website, [www.skillset.org](http://www.skillset.org). And there's the *BFI Film and Television Handbook*, costing £18.99. Short courses: Skillset and the British Film Institute (BFI) run courses. A list is available from the BFI (0171-255 1444).

## Access to justice is not just a gimmick

**NO ONE** can ignore the revolution happening in the civil justice system. The aim is to create a system that is cheaper, quicker and simpler than the current one, and to increase access to justice "for ordinary people". But, as the Access to Justice Bill of Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, moves through Parliament, there are signs that the reality may fall well short of this.

A whole package of reforms has been trailed and is now on the way. The court system is being redesigned following Lord Woolf's report on access to justice. In April, new court rules come into force marking the start of the biggest shake-up of the civil justice system in more than 100 years.

The way legal services are organised and delivered is also being changed. The legal aid system is to be replaced by two schemes run by a Legal Services Commission: the Community Legal Service and the Criminal Defence Service. Conditional fee agreements have been extended to nearly all areas of civil litigation, and will be updated to increase their uptake. Legal aid for personal injury cases looks likely to be scrapped as a consequence.

The Government's programme has a central theme: better targeting of how money is spent and meeting people's needs for legal services. Many of the changes are made in the Bill itself. But much of the important detail will follow

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in rules and guidance made by the Lord Chancellor and the various new bodies created by the Bill. This has caused some concern – eyebrows were raised at initial attempts to give the Lord Chancellor sweeping new powers. And alarm bells started to ring when the Bill was considered in detail by the House of Lords – an attempt to promote equal access to justice had a frosty government reception. During the report stage of the Bill, a new clause – backed by a coalition of consumer and legal bodies – was introduced to protect access to the justice system for vulnerable people, such as the disabled.

That clause sets out the principle that legally aided consumers are placed on an equal footing before the law with privately paying clients. It also guarantees that, under the reformed legal aid system, individuals will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability or where they happen to live.

This new safeguard was adopted with a majority of 71 peers from all sides of the House. But the Government dismissed the proposal as a "gimmick" and now threatens to take out the clause when the Bill reaches the House of Commons.

When money is tight, tough decisions have to be made, but surely treating people equally before the law is a fundamental principle of justice. That has been central to the legal aid system since its birth more than 50 years ago. The Lord Chancellor has said that the present clause is self-contradictory and has conflicting objectives – but he has yet to propose a viable alternative.

This Bill is all about access to justice – but it has to live up to its title. If a principle in this Bill to protect the weak is a gimmick, then all legislation needs such gimmicks. Clear objectives have to be put into the law and the Lord Chancellor cannot escape his responsibility to ensure that high-quality legal services are provided, and on an equal footing. Lord Irvine's initial reaction was that the clause is "quite unrealistic". If that is the Government's considered view, then the conclusion must be that from now on, those on legal aid can be expected to receive a second-class service.

Ashley Holmes is head of legal affairs at the Consumers Association

## The heart of the matter

The law is in a muddle over who owns our bodies after death. By Grania Langdon-Down

**WHO OWNS** your body? Alive, you can control what is done to you through giving consent to medical treatment. But what about when you are dead? Who owns or has control then?

For the parents of the babies who died after cardiac surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, the discovery that the hospital had kept the children's hearts came as a devastating and grisly shock. It will be one of the many issues under investigation when the public inquiry starts on 16 March.

More generally, it is a matter of growing concern that, as research techniques become increasingly sophisticated – with the possibility that parts of your body could become the raw material for very profitable treatments – legislation has fallen behind the times. Four years ago, the Nuffield Council for Bioethics called for the law to be clarified as "its uncertainty may impede legitimate treatment".

But there are no specific legal provisions in statute on the ownership of bodies or body parts, except for an ancient common law principle that no one can claim legal ownership of a body. Current legislation includes the Human Organ Transplants Act 1989, which regulates the removal of organs for transplant. John Harris, professor of bioethics at Manchester University, suggested that bodies should become public property on death so that consent to organ donation would be automatic, unless someone chose to opt out.

The Human Tissue Act 1961 regulates the removal of body parts "for therapeutic purposes or for the purposes of medical education or research" and the Anatomy Act 1984 regulates the conduct of anatomical ex-



Protesters demand a public inquiry into the deaths of babies at the Bristol Royal Infirmary Michael Stephens

aminations. Both refer to "the person lawfully in possession of the body" as the person who can give consent to the removal of body parts, post mortem and anatomical examinations. But neither defines who that person can be. Relatives of the deceased have some rights of possession of the body, but only to ensure proper burial. It is implicit in the Human Tissue Act that where someone dies in hospital, the hospital is "lawfully in possession" of the body. The hospital can then authorise the removal and use of body parts, if it believes the deceased or any surviving relative would not object.

In the case of the babies who died at Bristol Royal Infirmary, their families have little chance of redress because proving that a hospital has acted unreasonably is too difficult to be viable. Laurence Vick, solicitor for some of the families, aims to show a link between their mental trauma and the hospital's original negligence. But the parents' primary concern is to ensure the practice of retaining body parts is better regulated. The fine of authority "twists and turns", says solicitor Mark Stephens, who acted for Anthony Noel-Kelly, the sculptor jailed last year for stealing human body parts. The prosecution argued that the common law stating that no one could own a body derived from a misunderstanding. A 1614 case of alleged burial-shroud theft ruled that a corpse could not own property, but was wrongly taken to mean that a corpse itself could not be owned. And two years ago, the case of Deborah Dobson, who died from brain tumours, also tested the question of ownership. Her grandparents sued Newcastle Health Authority for destroying a part of her brain which meant that they could not establish whether the tumours had been malignant. Judges held that there was no property in a

corpse and no duty on a hospital to preserve body parts indefinitely. Richard Hone QC, counsel for the family, said: "The law is in a fearful muddle about this." So muddled, says medical negligence specialist Dan Brennan QC, that people are less protected in terms of medical research than animals. He is concerned that very few research ethics committees have lay members, while the medical profession is increasingly being subjected to commercial pressures. His own view is that there must be tighter controls: "Patients must be put at the forefront, whether they are alive or dead."

Who's the boss? Jo Stewart, 49, is chief executive. He initially joined Northern Foods in 1989, as the managing director of Fox's Biscuits. He was appointed to his present post in March last year.

### A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

#### NORTHERN FOODS

Age: 27

**History:** Essentially began as a dairy operation at Holme on Spalding Moor in 1937 and became Northern Dairies in 1942. Expanded rapidly from the Sixties – initially in partnership with Marks & Spencer, but now with all the major UK retail multiples. The company's name changed to Northern Foods in 1972 to reflect the widening interest in other product areas. It now has a balance of brands and private-label businesses, the former including Fox's Biscuits, Ski Yoghurt and Goodfella's Pizzas, as well as producing for all the major retail brands.

**Address:** Headquarters are in Hull, with an additional 60 sites in the UK and Eire.

**Ambience:** "Friendly, supportive, demanding and challenging" is the description given in the graduate careers brochure. Lynne Waters, graduate recruitment manager, adds: "All of the sites operate autonomously, which makes it a very informal organisation."

**Vital statistics:** The company currently has 18 operating businesses, employing more than 20,000 people nationwide. The operating profit last year was £94.3m.

**Lifestyle:** "As a graduate, you can expect a fast-moving and demanding career," says Lynne Waters, adding: "Expect early responsibility with a real job to stretch and excite you from day one." The company encourages graduates to work within their local community early on into their career. Most undertake a two-week community-based project, with the aim of developing personal skills and assisting people in the locality.

**Easy to get into?** No. Last year, about 30 graduates were recruited from among 18,000 applications.

Nevertheless, any degree discipline is considered for careers in personnel, commercial, distribution and operations management. For technical jobs, engineering and finance, however, a more specific background is preferred.

**Glimmering alumni:** Chris (now Lord) Haskins joined the company in 1962 and became chairman in 1986. He also works for the Government's Better Regulation Task Force as chairman.

**Pay:** Starting salary for graduates in 1999 is £17,500. Salaries are reviewed every six months during the training period.

**Training:** The graduate training programme – which lasts between 18 months and two years – comprises five basic courses: introduction to Northern Foods, manufacturing management, commercial awareness, outdoor-based self-development and career management. Graduates are also encouraged to study for professional qualifications. Those wishing to pursue a more general business degree will be given the opportunity to study for a Northern Foods diploma in management studies.

"Courses are hard work but fun, and also provide a forum for graduates from different functions and businesses to meet, mix and exchange ideas," says Joanne Dodge, a graduate training manager.

**Facilities:** There are canteens or restaurants on all main manufacturing sites, but – surprisingly – they do not serve Northern Foods!



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